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AMIR'S VISIT.

No. I.

R.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, 11th December 1906. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. We are addressing you by Despatch, in reply to your No. 39 (Secret) of 2nd November, regarding the Amir's visit. We readily accept your view that our attitude should be one of friendly expectancy as to proposals emanating from Amir rather than of active suggestion on our part. The settlement of the boundary between Kabul River and Sassobai Pass is the question of most immediate importance. On the march to the Khyber, the Amir may revive Afghan claim to Tor Kham, and, if he does so, we would adhere to the view expressed in the verbal message sent by the Viceroy through British Agent, Kabul, in April last, *vide* enclosure No. 15 of Secret Despatch No. 80, dated 21st June 1903, but we might say that we are prepared to meet him in the matter, make over Darband to him, and give him access to water at Landi Khana, provided that no buildings are erected there, if he will agree to a satisfactory frontier near Dakka.

We obviously cannot move in respect of Russo-Afghan frontier relations until we know the arrangements settled by His Majesty's Government with Russia, and we shall be greatly relieved if matter is not raised by the Amir at all, in which case we understand that no action is required from us by His Majesty's Government. If His Highness does raise question, we will endeavour to carry out the instructions which you have sent us.

As to the examination of the country beyond Kabul by military officers, the Amir in his negotiations with Sir Louis Dane treated this question as an integral part of the scheme which he put forward for defence of Afghanistan, and we fear that he may not be inclined to agree to any suggestions which do not include the consideration of a more general scheme of defence, which we are precluded from discussing. We assume we are debarred from touching on the very serious question of free trade in arms from the Persian Gulf, which is now being fostered in Afghanistan, since the Amir might remind us that, as we would not meet his request to Dane for our discarded Martinis, we should not object to his allowing his subjects to purchase arms for themselves.

If, however, the question of military defence of Afghanistan is broached by the Amir himself, we understand we are not entirely prohibited from informal interchange of views. Should he adhere to policy of rigidly excluding telegraphs and improved communications, our course under your instructions is clear, but if he evinces willingness to meet some of the strategic requirements of the case, we propose to report his attitude and ask for further intimation of your wishes, so as to facilitate a more detailed interchange of opinions, with a view to possible understanding as to future action in certain eventualities.

We consider it not unlikely that claim may be raised by Amir to be addressed by us by style of Persian equivalent of "His Majesty" as is now general practice by his own officials. We do not see how we could resist this, and we recommend that the concession might be granted if we find that he lays stress upon it. We would explain to His Highness that it did not mark any alteration in the nature of our engagements or relations with him or of the manner or channel in which those relations would continue to be conducted.

Finally, we would suggest that His Majesty the King-Emperor may be graciously pleased to send through the Viceroy a verbal friendly message of welcome to Amir on his arrival at Agra.

No. 2.

R.

Secretary of State to Viceroy. (Foreign Dept.)

P * Telegram, 14th December 1906, 4-50 p. m., (Recd. 15th, 7 a. m.)

Foreign. Secret. Amir's visit. Your telegram of 11th December. Your interpretation of my Secret Despatch, No. 39, dated the 2nd November, as inculcating attitude on our part of friendly expectancy rather than of active suggestion exactly meets my intention.

Pending the receipt of your promised Despatch the following is a reply to points raised in your telegram :—

Firstly.—Boundary settlement. I am not sure that I fully understand sentence "The Amir may revive claim to Tor Khan on march to Khyber". If what you contemplate is that Amir may raise the subject with your officers when he reaches frontier, the language which you propose seems appropriate. But it must be made clear by them that any conversation with them at this stage is only preliminary to discussion later on with Your Excellency, should His Highness wish for such discussion. And on no account should they name concessions to be offered by us in return for a satisfactory frontier

near Dakka in too definite terms, as though no modification of them could be entertained, unless indeed these concessions are the utmost that you are prepared to grant. I observe that the letter from Lord Elgin, dated 3rd September 1898, referred to in message sent through British Agent last April agreed to leave the precise boundary undecided until it can be settled by demarcation on the spot.

Secondly.—Russo-Afghan frontier relations. Negotiations at St. Petersburg would be facilitated if we know the Amir's views about direct communications before we definitely raise the point with Russian Government. An agreement with them cannot be concluded until the Amir has been consulted as to conditions on which direct communications are to be formally recognised. From point of view of His Majesty's Government it would therefore be advantageous if the matter of direct communications could be discussed now with Amir without prejudice to friendly character of visit. But if no suitable opportunity presents itself the matter may be left in abeyance, as stated in paragraph 9 of my Despatch. I gather that you agree that in the event of the subject being raised, the line laid down in my Despatch is the least objectionable that can in the circumstances be taken.

Thirdly.—Military co-operation. The course which you propose, should Amir show willingness to meet our strategic requirements, is entirely approved. Nothing, however, should be said to make His Highness think that a more detailed interchange of opinions will in any way pledge us to enter into a definite agreement. The objections to such an agreement are so great that His Majesty's Government could not conclude one unless they saw their way clearly to meet the contingencies which it would involve without excessive strain on their resources. Suggestion for examination of country beyond Kabul should not be made if there is any chance of Amir regarding it as an indication of a desire on our part for a scheme of co-operation.

Fourthly.—Discouragement by Amir of trade in arms from Gulf. This question seems only indirectly connected with that of military co-operation, and if you think it likely to lead to good result, I see no objection to your sounding Amir on the subject. But even if His Highness is willing, is it within his power materially to check trade? How would question be affected by the gift of discarded Martinis?

Fifthly.—I agree with your view as to title. What is the literal translation of Persian equivalent of "His Majesty", which would be employed, and what would be the form employed in official English translation? Would you abandon the formula "His Highness"?

Meanwhile I am mentioning to the King both this matter and the proposed message of welcome.

(4)

No. 3.

R.

Secretary of State to Viceroy.

P * Telegram, 18th December 1906, 9-20 p. m. (Reed. 19th, 6-30 a. m.)

Private. Amir. Please see my Foreign-Secret telegram of 14th instant. If the Amir presses, the King approves of the designation of "His Majesty."

The King will also send a message of welcome, and I would be glad if you would suggest one or other form of words. Please telegraph reply.

No. 4.

R.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, 21st December 1906. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. Amir's visit. Your telegram of 14th December :—*Firstly*, you have rightly understood our reference to Tor Kham, and your further instructions will be observed. *Secondly*, we will raise the question of Russo-Afghan relations if suitable opportunity offers, taking the line suggested in paragraphs 5 to 9 of your Despatch of 2nd November. *Thirdly*, your instructions with regard to question of military co-operation are noted. *Fourthly*, we will be guided by circumstances as to sounding Amir on subject of Persian Gulf arms trade. If he wished, he could certainly stop the trade. If we had given him our discarded Martinis for his tribesmen in Turkestan and Herat as he asked, he would probably have been willing to maintain his former restrictions on arms trade, and possibly we might have secured further concessions. We are not prepared now to recommend the offer of Martinis merely in exchange for a promise of restrictions on the arms trade, which it would be difficult for us to enforce. A suitable rail-head, an amenable attitude about frontier cases, and inter-communication between his and our officers about such cases, and possibly the military inspection of country north and west of Kabul, if he will deal with the latter apart from general defence scheme, would be suitable considerations for such a present. But we would only put these forward, in the event of the Amir pressing for a gift of arms, and if His Majesty's Government, on learning of his attitude, were willing to permit us to suggest such a return. *Fifthly*, the Persian equivalent of "His Majesty" is Ala Hazrat, the literal meaning of which is "Most exalted presence" or "Most exalted Lordship", and this is what has been used by Amir. Many people in India in speaking or writing of Amir are using term "His Majesty", but as

English is not used in official correspondence with him, he possibly would raise no objection to the continued use of the style of "His Highness" in English translations as heretofore. Unless then Amir strongly presses for this, we propose no change in English title.

No. 5.

R.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, 22nd December 1906, 7-30 p. m.

Private. Your private telegram 18th instant. Amir. Would suggest following two alternative messages for King to send Amir:—*First.* I am glad to learn that Your Highness has safely reached my Indian Dominions. I trust that your meeting with my Viceroy and Governor-General will build up and consolidate the friendly relations which now happily exist between Your Highness and the Government of India, and that your tour in India will prove as pleasant as it is my desire that it should be. *Second alternative.* I am glad to learn that Your Majesty has safely reached India, and trust that your tour will be a pleasant one.

The adoption of the title Majesty in second alternative is suggested as a convenient method of changing the title hitherto in use. Amir is almost certain to press for title of Majesty, and it seems fitting both that the concession should emanate directly from King-Emperor and should be given unasked. Giving it in this manner also will attract less public attention than public announcement at Agra.

No. 6.

R.

Secretary of State to Viceroy.

* Telegram, 27th December 1906, 9 p. m. (Recd. 28th, 6-30 a. m.)

Private. Your private telegram of 22nd instant. Amir. King has, on my suggestion (except as to Amir's title), approved following message:—

Begins. The news of Your Majesty's visit to my Viceroy and Governor-General affords me great gratification as indicating the friendly relations

between Your Majesty and my Government. I hope very cordially that your tour will be a pleasant relief from your cares of State. *Ends.*

King proposes of his own motion to send this direct to Amir and in English. Please telegraph if you have any objection to direct communication and to use of title of Your Majesty in English—see your Foreign-Secret telegram of December 21st—also please say when and where King's telegram should be sent.

No. 7.

Secretary of State to Viceroy. (Foreign Dept.)

P * Telegram, 27th December 1906. (Recd. 28th.)

Foreign. Secret. Warrant for Amir was forwarded with Secretary's letter of December 14th. The foregoing is for Foreign Secretary in reply to his telegram of the 25th instant.

No. 8.

B.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, 28th December 1906, 10 p. m.

Private. Your private telegram of 27th instant. King's message will do excellently, and should go direct to Amir to reach him at Landi Kotal on Wednesday, 2nd January. No objection to use of title of Your Majesty in English.

No. 9.

B.

Secretary of State to Viceroy. (Foreign Dept.)

P * Telegram, 1st January 1907, 6-25 p. m. (Recd. 2nd, 6-30 a. m.)

Foreign. Secret. Amir's visit. Estimates of expenditure on Amir's visit, forwarded under your Secret telegram of December 15th, are approved.

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No. 10.

R.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Foreign Secretary, Agra.

* Telegram, 1st January 1907, 9 p. m.

Your today's telegram to Clarke. King's Message to Amir :—

Begins. The news of Your Majesty's visit to my Viceroy and Governor-General affords me great gratification as indicating the friendly relations between Your Majesty and my Government. I hope very cordially that your tour will be a pleasant relief from your cares of State. *Ends.*

Viceroy says this of course necessitates use of title of Majesty in all English programmes.

No. II.

R.

Foreign Secretary to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Agra, 2nd January 1907.

Your clear the line message of 1st January. Amir's salute. Please see my telegram of 1st January to Foreign, Calcutta. I can suggest nothing further, unless Viceroy wishes to ask Secretary of State at once if salute of 31 guns should be given. This would necessitate similar salute to other independent Asiatic Sovereigns.

No. 12.

R.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

Telegram, Landi Kotal, 2nd January 1907.

984 A. V. Following is telegram sent to Amir by His Majesty the King-Emperor, dated London, 1st January :—

Begins. The news of Your Majesty's visit to my Viceroy and Governor-General affords me great gratification as indicating the friendly relations between Your Majesty and my Government. I hope very cordially that your tour will be a pleasant relief from your cares of State. *Ends.*

Addressed Foreign, Agra; repeated Private Secretary to Viceroy, Calcutta; and Foreign, Calcutta.

(8)

No. 13.

R.

Viceroy to H. M. the Amir of Afghanistan.

Telegram, 3rd January 1907, 12 noon.

I am glad to hear that Your Majesty has crossed the frontier, and beg to offer Your Majesty a hearty welcome to India. (Signed) Minto.

No. 14.

R.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Sir H. MacMahon, Amir's Camp.

* Telegram, 3rd January 1907, 1-10 p. m.

Clear the line. Viceroy has been awaiting a telegram from you reporting Amir's arrival at Landi Kotal before despatching a telegram of welcome to Amir. No telegram has come, but newspapers report his arrival; so Viceroy's telegram of greeting has been despatched. His Excellency wishes to be kept informed of all the important stages of Amir's progress with a view to communicating with Secretary of State.

No. 15.

H. M. the Amir of Afghanistan to Viceroy.

Telegram, Jamrud, 3rd January 1907.

Having safely crossed the frontier of the illustrious British Government, I have entered their territory. The frontier officers carried out their duties in an efficient manner. I express my thanks to Your Excellency for Your Excellency's congratulations. (Signed) Siraj-ul-Millat-Waddin.

No. 16.

R.

Sir H. MacMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Peshawar, 3rd January 1907.

Following was despatched to Foreign, Agra, immediately after Amir's arrival:-

Begins. 986 A. V., 2nd January. Amir arrived Landi Khana at 11-45 and Landi Kotal at 1 P. M. today. I delivered verbally message from His

Excellency the Viceroy and telegram from His Majesty the King-Emperor. The Amir expressed his great gratification at the fact that his first journey outside Afghanistan since he was 8 years old was bringing him to the house of a friend. He will send reply to His Majesty's telegram. Amir appeared in excellent health and spirits, and a feeling of cordial friendliness seemed to animate Amir and all ranks of his party. *Ends.*

On enquiry I find that by clerical error, which I greatly regret, it was not repeated to you and Foreign, Calcutta.

Repeated Foreign, Calcutta.

No. 17.

R.

Secretary of State to Viceroy.

P * Telegram, 3rd January 1907, 7-40 p. m. (Recd. 4th, 6 a. m.)

Foreign. Secret. Amir's title. Your telegram of 21st December. Please telegraph what style and title you would recommend for use in Gazette announcing the G. C. B. conferred on Amir in view of the King having in telegram of welcome been advised to address Amir as His Majesty.

No. 18.

R.

Secretary of State to Viceroy. (Foreign Dept.)

P * Telegram, 3rd January 1907, 7-35 p. m. (Recd. 4th, 6 a. m.)

Foreign. Secret. Amir's visit. Your Despatch 13th December and telegram of 21st December. In view of your correct apprehension of the policy of His Majesty's Government, I do not propose to trouble you with further observations after those contained in my telegram of the 14th November. I will only invite your continuous attention to the third paragraph of that telegram in its bearing on paragraph 6 of your Despatch above cited. You may rely that His Majesty's Government will give prompt consideration to any communication of the kind intimated by you in your paragraph 6 and will send a speedy expression of their views. In any such consideration and for other reasons, it will be an obvious advantage if you will favour me by telegraph from time to time, as occasion may arise, with concise reports of the substance of your conversations with Amir, and also of any points of interest or significance which officers attached to him may mention. I am anxious not to add to your labours and should readily understand brevity. There would also be some convenience in my being kept officially informed of the movements of the Amir.

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No. 19.

R.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Amir's Camp, 3rd January 1907.

A. V. The Amir left Landi Kotal at 9-45 A. M. today and drove down with me to Jamrud, where he entered his train and expressed himself much pleased with it. Amir reached Peshawar at 3-15 P. M., and appeared to be thoroughly gratified by his reception and preparation made for his comfort.

Repeated Foreign, Calcutta, and Foreign, Agra.

No. 20.

R.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Sir H. McMahon, Amir's Camp.

* Telegram, 4th January 1907.

Your telegram of 3rd. Have you received my clear the line telegram of same date sent off at 10 minutes past 1 P. M.?

No. 21.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, 4th January 1907.

Private. Owing to annoying oversight in McMahon's office I have only just heard officially of Amir's arrival at Landi Kotal forenoon of 3rd January. McMahon telegraphs that the Amir expressed his great gratification at the fact that his first journey outside Afghanistan since he was eight years old was bringing him to the house of a friend. Amir appeared in excellent health and spirits, and a feeling of cordial friendliness seemed to animate him and all ranks of his party. Amir expressed himself as much pleased with train at Jamrud and appeared to be thoroughly gratified by reception and preparations for his comfort at Peshawar, where he arrived yesterday afternoon.

I will keep you informed of all important stages in Amir's progress.

(11)

No. 22.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, 4th January 1907.

1012-A. V. Your telegram of 4th. My telegram of 3rd was in reply to your clear the line message of the same date.

No. 23.

To LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR A. H. McMAHON, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Chief Officer on Special Duty with the Amir of Afghanistan.

Govt. House, Calcutta, January 4th, 1907.

[Private.]

MY DEAR McMAHON,

I think your office wants waking up. On the 2nd the Viceroy several times asked if any telegram had come from you about the Amir. When none came by dinner time either to Government House or the Foreign Office, I felt sure that the Amir had postponed crossing the frontier for a day. So His Excellency told me to hold up his telegram of greeting. Next morning all the Calcutta papers, and doubtless those in London also, reported his arrival! The Viceroy was naturally very much upset, and the Secretary of State, who has asked to be informed of the Amir's movements, will certainly ask why he first learnt the news from the papers.

Then came your telegram to me of the 3rd, which did not improve the situation, as it showed that a telegram *had* been sent, but only to Dane at Agra, which made it appear as if the Viceroy was being ignored.

Do make someone on your staff responsible for seeing that the Viceroy is kept informed of all that goes on. Of course all telegrams of any importance to the Foreign Office should be repeated to the Private Secretary to the Viceroy. His Excellency quite realises what a worrying and engrossing charge you have, but naturally wishes reports of progress.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) J. R. DUNLOP SMITH.

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No. 24.

FROM LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR A. H. McMAHON, K. C. I. E., C. S. I., Chief Officer on
Special Duty with the Amir of Afghanistan.

Amir's Camp, India, January 4th, 1907.

[Secret.]

DEAR LORD MINTO,

Your Excellency will doubtless desire to be kept fully acquainted with all the incidents of the Amir's tour in India.

Under ordinary circumstances an official diary of the usual nature would meet requirements. Official diaries, however, have a comparatively wide circulation, and I may have, on occasions, incidents to narrate and remarks to make which need not be quite so widely circulated.

I propose therefore, with Your Excellency's approval, to submit daily, together with my official diary which will merely record concrete facts and the ordinary incidents of the day, a private diary giving an account of anything that may be out of place in the official daily record. This will enable me to write freely, record conversations of a personal nature, and relate incidents and impressions which, though insignificant in themselves, often assist in judging a character or accounting for more important events.

Owing to the exigencies of travel and the little time I may have at my disposal at places where we halt, I may perhaps at times be obliged to write somewhat hurriedly. Deficiencies in diction in my diary on this account will, I trust, be excused.

I remain, yours sincerley,

(Sd.) A. H. McMAHON.

P. S.—The first of these diaries is enclosed herewith. I trust that few will be so lengthy. A copy of the official diary would have been attached, but it is not yet ready.

I would venture to suggest that my private diary should be kept very confidential to prevent leakage. I think the Amir often gets the contents of official communications.

(13)

No. 25.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Amir's Camp, Peshawar, 5th January 1907.

1026-A. V. Your telegram of date regarding Amir's salutes. Orders were received a few minutes too late, and 21 guns were fired on Amir's arrival at Landi Kotal. He received 31 guns on his departure from there and on arrival at Peshawar. Necessary orders issued to Military authorities with regard to salutes at other places.

No. 26.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Amir's Camp, Peshawar, 5th January 1907.

I am sending daily a private record of events of tour to Viceroy. First diary posted on 4th.

No. 27.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Sir H. McMahon, Amir's Camp.

* Telegram, 5th January 1907.

Did Amir receive salute of 31 guns on arrival at Landi Kotal and at Peshawar?

No. 28.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to E. V. Gabriel, Esq., Agra.

* Telegram, 5th January 1907.

Viceroy has heard that Lords Lytton and Curzon wore special Robes at Imperial Assemblage and Delhi Durbar, and that those Robes are kept in Foreign Office. Calcutta Office know nothing about them, but say all Robes that were in Toshakhana have been sent to Agra. Do you know whether there are any such special Robes and where they are? Telegraph urgently.

(14)

No. 29.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Peshawar, 5th January 1907.

1027-A. V. My telegram 984-A. V. of 2nd instant. Following telegram sent today by Amir to King-Emperor :—

Begins. The telegram of welcome, which Your Majesty has sent me, reached me at Lowargai, which is the beginning of the frontier, that is, the Gate of India. Thank Your Majesty. *Ends.*

Repeated Foreign, Calcutta, and Foreign, Agra.

No. 30.

To SIR LOUIS DANE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secy. to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

Govt. House, Calcutta, January 5th, 1907.

MY DEAR DANE,

The Viceroy realises that it will not be always possible for our officers with the Amir or for those who will meet him at the different stages of his tour to avoid discussion of questions dealing with our mutual relations and other political matters, as such may not improbably be raised by His Majesty himself. But His Excellency thinks these to be avoided as far as possible. There will doubtless be several requests for a private interview with the Amir, and the Viceroy directs that all such which are made with a possible view to important conversation should be reported to His Excellency for sanction.

I suppose you have heard by now that the first news either the Viceroy or Secretary of State had of the Amir's crossing the frontier was from the newspapers of the following day! I have both telegraphed and written to McMahon, saying he must make someone responsible that His Excellency is kept fully informed of the Amir's progress.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) J. R. DUNLOP SMITH.

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No. 31.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Foreign Secretary, Agra.

Telegram, 6th January 1907.

Clear the line. McMahon's telegram 1047-A. Please send to meet Viceroy's train tomorrow, wherever you can catch it, exact plan showing position of Viceroy, Amir, Chiefs, and other Members of Orders at Chapter with your opinion regarding what McMahon says in telegram quoted above.

No. 32.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Peshawar, 6th January 1907.

1058-A. V. Amir's official arrival Agra Fort postponed until 10 A. M. on 9th January. Amir's train should, if possible, reach Agra Junction up to the original scheduled time and should halt there for hour or such less time as may be necessitated by late arrival to allow party to dress.

Addressed District Traffic Superintendent, East Indian Railway, Agra Fort; repeated Foreign, Agra; Army, Calcutta; Mr. Gabriel, Agra; Assistant Adjutant-General, Eastern Command, Agra; and United Provinces, Agra.

No. 33.

E. V. Gabriel, Esq., to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Agra, 6th January 1907.

497-A. Robes worn by Lord Curzon at Delhi were those of Grand Master. Viceroy has these.

No. 34.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Foreign Secretary, Agra.

* Telegram, 6th January 1907.

Clear the line. Sir H. McMahon's telegram about Amir's arrival. Viceroy quite approves arrival should be postponed till 10 A. M. Please give necessary orders.

Repeated Sir H. McMahon; Military Secretary to the Viceroy; and copy to Army Department.

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No. 35.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Foreign Secretary, Agra.

* Telegram, 6th January 1907.

Clear the line. Viceroy would be glad of your advice by clear the line message on McMahon's telegram of this evening about Amir's position at Chapter.

No. 36.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Peshawar, 6th January 1907.

Clear the line. 1049-A. V. Amir specially asks that, if not very inconvenient, his arrival at Agra may be deferred to 9-30 or 10 A. M. Latter preferred in order to give him sufficient time for preparations. Please telegraph whether this is possible.

Addressed Foreign, Agra; repeated Army Department and Assistant Adjutant-General, Eastern Command, Agra.

No. 37.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Peshawar, 6th January 1907.

Clear the line. 1047-A. V. Amir asked me this morning to describe precisely position which he would occupy at Chapter, and on my doing so said he must absolutely decline to be present at Chapter or reception following it unless he is given seat side by side with Viceroy and given complete precedence over all other Chiefs. He desires to leave Dewan-i-Am and wait till joined by Viceroy at foot of rampart before any other Chiefs follow him. I carefully explained to him peculiar rules of precedence governing Chapter and described position allotted to Duke of Connaught at Delhi. Amir said his son, if there, would sit behind Viceroy, but he himself would now be present and must sit by Viceroy. Amir is amenable regarding other matters of ceremony at Agra, but is quite firm on this point. He spoke very nicely, but firmly, and mentioned matter reluctantly. I will try, but see no prospect of him to change his views.

Repeated Foreign, Agra.

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No. 38.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, 6th January 1907.

Please refer to your telegram of the 3rd January. In view of the text of His Majesty the King's telegraphic greeting to the Amir, we are adopting the style of "His Majesty" generally. Accordingly the following might, for the purposes of the Gazette, be the style and title employed:—

His Majesty Siraj-ul-Millat-wad-din Amir Habibulla Khan, G. C. M. G., Amir of Afghanistan and its Dependencies.

No. 39.

FROM LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR A. H. McMAHON, K. C. I. E., C. S. I., Chief Officer on Special Duty with the Amir of Afghanistan.

Amir's Camp, Peshawar, January 6th, 1907.

DEAR LORD MINTO,

Notwithstanding the best of intentions circumstances have prevented my keeping Your Excellency so fully and rapidly supplied with full information of the events of the Amir's tour as I had intended.

I am engaged for so many hours of the day in personal attendance on the Amir and have so much to see to during the day, that no time is left to record the course of events.

Rather than risk further delay by getting my diaries typed by a small and heavily worked staff, I venture to send you my diaries in their rough and original state.

At first sight it might seem that I am recording very trivial events and very trivial remarks, but there are many little details in both which may assist Your Excellency in forming a more accurate opinion of the Amir than might otherwise be possible.

I already notice a marked improvement in our mutual relations, and nothing can be more friendly than they are. I hope gradually to remove the suspicions which an Afghan naturally entertains of us, and I have already instilled a little discipline into the Amir, which will benefit both him and us during the tour.

I strongly urge that no word or suggestion of business may be expressed to him to again rouse his suspicions. We will gain thereby in the end.

He tells me he desires to have several private interviews with Your Excellency at Calcutta. These may or may not mean reference to politics, but I think they are meant to promote mutual acquaintance.

You will, unless I am mistaken, form a very favourable opinion of the Amir as an individual, however intractable he may be on matters of ceremony.

We leave Peshawar tomorrow, and I am endeavouring at a very late hour of the night to write up arrears of diaries before starting.

Kindly forgive a hurried letter.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) A. HENRY McMAHON.

P. S.—My diaries in future will, I trust, be more regular. The first few days are naturally very heavy ones, as our respective parties are strangers and work is necessarily very heavy.

No. 40.

Foreign Secretary to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Agra, 7th January 1907.

Will arrange that Amir's arrival should be postponed to 9-30. Cannot make it later in view of fact that Foreign, Private, and Military Secretaries, who receive him at his camp, have to be at Viceroy's Camp at 10-45 for ceremonial visits.

Addressed Sir H. McMahon, Peshawar.

No. 41.

Foreign Secretary to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Agra, 7th January 1907.

Chaprassi with letter and plan sent to meet you at Moghal Serai. Please arrange for delivery.

No. 42.

Foreign Secretary to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Agra, 7th January 1907.

Clear the line. Amir's attitude about Chapter is awkward. I do not think he can sit by side of Viceroy on dais during investitures, as Mysore and Bikaner would certainly protest. Presence in such a position would be entirely incorrect. Besides there is no room for two chairs on permanent marble dais. Seat given him on Viceroy's right, as matter of fact, already gives him distinct precedence over all Chiefs; but, if necessary, we can raise it on separate small dais. If he would prefer this, we could bring him in after all were seated for investiture, and then he could take his seat as spectator of subsequent proceedings. This is what occurred when King invested King Hakon. If he still objects, he could be brought in at end of Chapter, and after being invested he could be conducted direct to Khas Mahals and there await Viceroy's arrival after disrobing. Only other alternative is to invest him at State Banquet at Agra or at Calcutta. He would then only attend Evening Party after Chapter was over, and his investiture would be shorn of all the dignity in the eyes of the Chiefs and people of India, which it was proposed to confer on him by conducting it in a special manner before the Chapter of the Indian Orders in the old palace of the Moguls assembled in the presence of the most distinguished assembly that Upper India can produce.

No. 43.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Peshawar, 7th January 1907.

960-A. V. Following is summary of events since Amir's arrival, Peshawar, on 3rd January :—No exchange of calls took place between Amir and Chief Commissioner, as Amir signified in friendly fashion that he felt himself unable to pay return visit. On 4th January McMahon paid Amir long informal call, after which Amir went to Jumma Musjid for Friday prayers. In afternoon he went to polo at home given by Lieutenant-General Commanding, where he showed great friendliness and created most favourable impression, and was pleased with massed bands. In evening he dined with Chief Commissioner. He drank King's health and gracefully acknowledged his own in few well-chosen words; remarked he was very glad to be in the house at one with friends, but would be still more glad to meet the Viceroy and looked forward to a happy time in India. He was extremely pleasant and friendly to all,

and stayed till midnight. On 5th McMahon paid him long visit in morning, and took him out for drive round Peshawar in afternoon. On passing some barracks he expressed desire to look at them, and was taken round barrack-rooms, wash-house, and kitchen and showed great interest in everything. Bulk of troops started for Agra in afternoon. On 6th McMahon paid visit of three hours, at which many matters of tour business was settled. Amir very amenable on all points except Chapter, regarding which separate reference has been made. Amir received several deputations somewhat coldly, and then drove with McMahon through city and cantonment, receiving ovation in city, which Amir did not seem to care for, as he asked McMahon to take him out of city by shortest route. Amir asked McMahon if he might present cups to officers of Mess of 42nd Highlanders in memory of his visit to their barracks yesterday. Amir seemed extremely well and cheerful and looked forward eagerly to his journey.

Addressed Foreign, Agra.

No. 44.

Foreign Secretary to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Agra, 7th January 1907.

Have arranged for arrival of Amir at 10 by postponing Viceroy's return visits to 12 instead of 11 A. M.

Addressed Dobbs.

No. 45.

Foreign Secretary to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Agra, 7th January 1907.

9-C. Your telegram 1055-A V. As Amir has his own Body-Guard with him, best arrangement seems to be that he should visit Viceroy escorted by his own Body-Guard and regiment of cavalry attached to his escort. Viceroy in returning visit will be escorted by his own Body-Guard and regiment of cavalry of his escort. Battery attached to Amir's escort will fire Viceroy's salute. Orders have issued accordingly.

Addressed Dobbs.

(21)

No. 46.

Secretary of State to Viceroy.

Telegram, 7th January 1907. (Recd. 8th, 6-30 a. m.)

Private. Deane is reported to have proposed toast of His Majesty the King of Afghanistan. Am rather astounded at this. Surely His Majesty the Amir quite enough. We must not forget effect of this excessive exaltation upon our own great Princes, to say nothing of outside persons.

No. 47.

Secretary of State to Viceroy.

Telegram, 7th January 1907. (Recd. 8th, 6-30 a. m.)

Private. King has received following telegram from Amir, dated January 5th :—“The telegram of welcome which Your Majesty has sent me reached me at Lowargai which is the beginning of the frontier, that is, the gate of India. I thank Your Majesty.” I will let you know if this is to be published.

No. 48.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Jhelum, 7th January 1907.

1067-A. V. Amir left train at Nowshera for about half an hour, and saw the march past of troops at Attock for 15 minutes, and examined the bridge at Rawalpindi hour and half, and saw the march past of troops. He spent a long time examining the guns after march past and displayed great interest and considerable knowledge. He expressed himself as delighted with all that he had seen and with comfort of railway journey, which he seemed to thoroughly enjoy.

Addressed to Foreign, Agra.

No. 49.

Sir H. McMahon to Foreign Secretary, Agra.

* Telegram, Nowshera, 7th January 1907.

I have had a long private talk along with Amir, since my last telegram, about seats in Chapter. I have used all arguments I can think of, but

without avail. If he goes to the Chapter, he insists on seats on same line and level as Viceroy, although not necessarily so close that chairs touch.

Repeated to Foreign, Calcutta, and Private Secretary to Viceroy.

No. 50.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Rawalpindi, 7th January 1907.

1065-A. V. Both Amir's and Sardars' trains left Peshawar at advertised time this morning. All well.

Addressed Foreign, Agra.

No. 51.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, Camp, 7th January 1907.

Private. Following is summary of events to date at Peshawar. No exchange of calls took place between Amir and Chief Commissioner, as Amir signified in friendly fashion his inability to pay return visit. On afternoon 4th he showed great friendliness at polo and created most favourable impression. He dined with Chief Commissioner and was very pleasant. He visited barracks, Black Watch. On 6th he visited city, receiving an ovation, and received some deputations somewhat coldly.

No. 52.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, Agra, 7th January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. Since Amir's arrival Peshawar on the 3rd instant the following is summary of events: The Amir and Chief Commissioner did not exchange calls, as the former signified in friendly fashion that he felt himself unable to pay return visits. McMahon paid Amir long informal call on 4th

January, after which His Majesty went to Jumma Masjid for prayers. In afternoon he attended a polo "at home" given by the Lieutenant-General Commanding, where he created most favourable impression. He dined with the Chief Commissioner in the evening; drank the King's health and gracefully acknowledged the toast of his own health, saying that he was glad to be in the house of his friend but would be still more glad to meet the Viceroy. His manner was extremely friendly and pleasant. On the 5th instant Sir H. McMahon paid him a long visit in morning, and in the afternoon took him for a drive round Peshawar. At his own request he inspected some barracks and showed great interest in details. Subsequently he asked to be allowed to present a cup to regiment. On the 6th Sir H. McMahon paid a visit of three hours, at which many matters connected with tour business were settled. His Majesty was very amenable about all points except the Chapter, as to which a somewhat difficult position has been taken up by him. Amir received several deputations somewhat coldly, and drove through the city and cantonments, where he received an ovation, to which he appeared to be indifferent. His Majesty seemed extremely well and cheerful and to be eagerly anticipating his journey.

No. 53.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, 8th January 1907.

1089. Amir arrived at Sirhind 10 A. M. today and was received by the Political Agent, Phulkian, and lodged in magnificent camp. He drove to the shrine at 4 P. M. All well.

Addressed to Foreign, Agra.

No. 54.

Secretary of State to Viceroy. (Foreign Dept.)

P * Telegram, 8th January 1907, 8-15 p. m. (Recd. 9th, 6-30 a. m.)

Foreign. Secret. Amir. I approve adoption of style of His Majesty generally, and accept style and title suggested for gazette purposes in your telegram of January 6th. Please telegraph date of investiture with the view to announcement being made here simultaneously.

(24)

No. 55.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, Agra, 8th January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. *En route* down country His Majesty the Amir on the 7th January 1907 availed himself of the opportunity given of seeing British troops at Rawalpindi and Nowshera and showed much interest in the guns. He expressed himself as delighted with the comfort of the railway journey and all that he had seen.

No. 56.

Secretary of State to Viceroy.

* Telegram, 9th January 1907, 6-30 p. m. (Recd. 10th, 6-30 a. m.)

Private. Your Foreign-Secret telegram of January 7th. The King desires me to ascertain in what respect the Amir is making difficulties about Chapter. If he aspires to higher honours, he had better be told plainly that he will not get them. I hope most urgently that the use of term "His Majesty" will be minimised to the lowest possible, and for my own part, I should have thought that exalted Highness would do quite well for Gazette.

No. 57.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, Agra, 9th January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. His Majesty the Amir halted on the 8th January at Sirhind, where he was received by the Political Agent of the Phulkian States. In the afternoon the Amir visited the shrine. The Amir arrived at Agra on the morning of the 9th, in accordance with the programme, and was met at the railway station by the Lieutenant-Governor and the principal officials of the United Provinces and the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Eastern Command with his staff. The officials were next introduced to the Amir, who recognised Mr. Clarke, Deputy Secretary in the Foreign Department, whom he had met at Kabul. After inspecting the guard-of-honour His Majesty drove to his tent, escorted by a battery of artillery, the 18th Tiwana Lancers, and his own Body-Guard. The road was lined by troops throughout. It came on to rain smartly *en route*, but the Amir, who appeared to be in the best of

spirits and was most affable, was in no wise disconcerted. As it was still raining when he arrived at his tent, His Majesty invited the British officers to remain until the rain stopped. On the officers reminding the Amir that the escort was waiting outside, he suggested that it should be dismissed and that the officers should stay. The officers decided to leave, and on taking farewell of General Gaselee, the Amir made the following remarks:—

“Like yourself, I am a soldier, and though I had my overcoat in the carriage with me, I thought it would have been most unbecoming of me to put it on and to sit dry and in comfort while your soldiers, who had been brought out to do me honour, were standing wet in the rain.”

His Majesty was received in his own tent by Sir Louis Dane with the deputation of officers sent on behalf of the Viceroy. He behaved in the most friendly manner and desired Sir Louis to inform the Viceroy that he trusted His Excellency was in good health. He commissioned Sir Louis Dane to add that all the arrangements that had been made for the Amir's comfort had been absolutely perfect, that the journey had been immensely enjoyable, that all the British officers whom the Amir had met had most efficiently performed the duties which had been entrusted to them, and that the Amir was much obliged to the Viceroy for having appointed Major McMahon as the principal *Mehmandar* of the party.

No. 58.

High Commissioner to Viceroy.

Telegram, Johannesburg, 9th January 1907.

Hamidia Islamic Society of Transvaal ask me to forward following message through you to His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan:—

Begins. This meeting of the Hamidia Islamic Society of the Transvaal hereby tenders respectful congratulations to His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan on his visit to India, and wishes His Highness long and prosperous rule. *Ends.*

No. 59.

FROM H. E. THE VISCOUNT KITCHENER, G. C. B., Commander-in-Chief in India.

January 9th, 1907.

MY DEAR VICEROY,

You will see by the enclosed* the communication the Amir sent to Russia before coming to India.

* Printed as enclosure to letter to Secretary of State, dated 16th January 1907.

With regard to the parade, I hope you will decide *not* to go down the line, as I understand the Amir would certainly attempt to go with you. The orders at present are that, after the Royal salute, the troops will at once march past.

Yours very truly,
(Sd.) KITCHENER.

No. 60.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, Agra, 10th January 1907, 11-40 a. m.

Private. Your private telegram of 7th instant. Have seen Deane, who assures me he never used the word "King". I quite agree with you title of "His Majesty Amir" quite sufficient.

No. 61.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, Agra, 10th January 1907, 4-20 p. m.

Private. Your private telegram of 9th January. I have noted your instructions about using style His Majesty as little as possible. I quite agree in this, but grant of title was necessary, and difficulty would almost certainly have arisen if this had been delayed. We should probably have been obliged to accord it under pressure. I feel sure that spontaneous action of King in recognising title has had very good effect. All Indian Chiefs here have readily acquiesced. Difficulty as to Chapter has arisen owing to my determination not to exalt Amir unduly as compared with great Indian princes. I hope to arrive at satisfactory solution today. Amir has just visited me and expressed himself delighted with all arrangements made for his comfort. On my receiving him he said in English: "I have been most anxious to meet you in the country of the first friend of my country and of myself." His manner was most friendly and while very sensitive as to matters of etiquette during State visit here he is evidently anxious to be cordial. All who have met him have been much pleased with his courtesy.

No. 62.

Secretary of State to Viceroy.

* Telegram, 11th January 1907, 4-20 p. m. (Recd. 12th, 6-30 a. m.)

Private. Amir. Much interest and gratification felt at long and pleasant accounts in newspapers of your proceedings.

(27)

No. 63.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, Agra, 12th January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. Please see your telegram of the 8th January. Amir will be invested with G. C. B. tonight.

We have overcome difficulties.

No. 64.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, Agra, 12th January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. The Amir paid a formal State visit to the Viceroy in the morning of the 10th instant, and His Excellency returned the visit early the same afternoon. The Amir was most friendly and courteous, and both functions passed off without the slightest hitch. The conversation was purely formal and was carried on through an interpreter, though short sentences in English were frequently interchanged between His Excellency and the Amir. In the afternoon the Amir was present at the Viceroy's garden party, and was introduced to Lady Minto. Many of the Chiefs and other guests present were also introduced to him, and all showed great anxiety to make his acquaintance. On the 11th the Amir visited the Taj Mahal, and also attended the Lieutenant-Governor's garden party and Gymkhana in the afternoon, creating a favourable impression everywhere. At night he, with thirteen of his Sardars, was present at the State Banquet in the Viceroy's camp. The Viceroy proposed his health, and the Amir replied in felicitous terms, and expressing his great pleasure at being among his best friends. After dinner he remained over an hour, talking freely to the visitors including Ruling Chiefs. Today, 12th, Amir was present at the Review with a very small suite. The Review, which was a magnificent spectacle, greatly impressed him.

No. 65.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, Agra, 14th January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. Amir's visit. Investiture ceremony in Diwan-i-Am on night of 12th was a most brilliant function, and carried out without smallest hitch. Amir arrived punctually and comported himself with great dignity and composure. He was seated on dais to right of Viceroy, and after

his personal investiture resumed seat and watched Star of India and Indian Empire investiture with marked interest. On conclusion of Chapter he was escorted to adjoining apartment, where he awaited Viceroy's arrival after disrobing, and then proceeded with Viceroy and Lady Minto to evening party in Khas Mahal and Diwan-i-Khas. On Sunday, Amir paid second visit to Taj, where he wishes to place marble railing at descent to vault. In afternoon, accompanied by Lord Kitchener, he spent four hours in going over Agra Fort, giving greatest attention to every detail. At night he dined with Commander-in-Chief when, putting aside all formality, he behaved in most friendly manner, expressing the great pleasure it afforded him to meet so many distinguished soldiers. He expressly asked that Commander-in-Chief and whole of the officers present at dinner would be photographed with him today.

No. 66.

English translation of a private letter in Persian from His Majesty the Amir of Afghanistan to His Excellency the Viceroy, dated 14th January 1907.

MY DEAR FRIEND LORD MINTO,

As Your Excellency's departure for Calcutta is to be of a private nature, I should like to come over tomorrow, Tuesday, 30th Ziqad 1324 H., corresponding with 15th January 1907, at 10 A. M., to the Circuit House, Agra, to pay a private visit to Your Excellency and family, God willing. I shall also be much pleased to pay private visit to Your Excellency at Calcutta.

Your friend,
 (Sd.) SIRAJ-UL-MILLAT-WADDIN.

No. 67.

To HIS MAJESTY THE AMIR OF AFGHANISTAN.

Viceroy's Camp, Agra, January 14th, 1907.

SIR,

I beg to thank Your Majesty for your very kind note, and Lady Minto and I will be much honoured if it is convenient for Your Majesty to come here at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, and we shall much look forward to Your Majesty's visit.

I beg to remain,
 Your Majesty's sincere friend,
 (Sd.) MINTO.

No. 68.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, 14th January 1907, 5 p. m.

Private. Your private telegram of 9th January. Difficulty as to Chapter was that Amir desired that he should enter and leave with Viceroy, and occupy precisely similar seat at equal distance from centre line on dais. Eventual arrangement was that he entered before procession of Orders came in, and left after procession had quitted the hall. Viceroy's throne as Grand Master was placed on centre line under Royal Arms, and Amir was given a chair of state on dais at some distance on Viceroy's right. Viceroy's Staff stood right and left of dais. Amir rose when Viceroy entered, and descended and came several steps forward to meet Viceroy, who on reaching throne indicated seat to Amir. Latter was evidently much gratified at ceremony, and had proposed to make a short speech at this, but was told by McMahon that it would be better to defer remarks. On being escorted by Dane to carriage he held latter's hand for some time, and said—"When question of my visiting India was raised before I was not certain how you would treat me. Now I know that no one could have been treated with greater courtesy, friendship, and honour than what the British Government have accorded to me, and there can be no question of what my feelings are." Chapter and all ceremonies have been most successful. Chiefs eagerly requested me to introduce them to Amir, and, as far as I can gather, have very sensibly accepted the situation.

No. 69.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, 15th January 1907.

The Amir was entertained at dinner by His Excellency Lord Kitchener in the latter's camp on 13th, and he there met the principal military officers now in Agra. The Amir was in the best of spirits and was evidently much pleased with all that had been done for him. After dinner he spoke on the subject of his artillery. He said that he would like too see the process of manufacturing cordite, but it was explained to him that this was a difficult and dangerous process which could not be taught in a short time or conducted except under very special precautions. He then suddenly said that he had come to India not intending to talk of such things, but that he felt he must speak out from his heart. He called God to witness that he would never desert the British if they did not first desert him. If he deserted them, he was no Muslim. To be of use he must be strong. He knew that his soldiers

required instruction and that his officers were ignorant. In the present state of feeling in his country he could not immediately ask for British officers to be sent as instructors. He was, however, prepared forthwith to send his own son and as many of the sons of his Sardars as were necessary to be taught by us wherever we pleased. He asked the Commander-in-Chief and the Foreign Secretary if they agreed. He was told that the idea seemed promising; but that the matter must be referred for orders. In any case it would take some time to arrange the necessary details.

The action of the Amir was entirely spontaneous, and as he is almost certain to refer to the subject in Calcutta, we would invite your early instructions. We consider that the proposal is good in itself and should be cordially accepted. We can work out details later on. Yesterday the Amir spent four hours with Lord Kitchener in inspecting the troops and camps and showed the greatest interest in all that he saw, only leaving with strong reluctance.

No. 70.

Principal, Aligarh College, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

Telegram, Aligarh, 15th January 1907.

Very bad impression caused, because Amir won't breakfast with Trustees, but in separate room. Prince lunched in same room with Trustees. Can't you arrange difficulty.

No. 71.

Private Secy. to Viceroy to Principal, Aligarh College, Aligarh.

* Telegram, 15th January 1907.

Your telegram. I have written to McMahon, and hope Amir may change his intention.

No. 72.

FROM F. STEVENSON, Esq.

[Private.] "Civil & Military Gazette," Lahore, January 15th, 1907.

MY DEAR DUNLOP SMITH,

I suppose you can now take breath after entertaining His Majesty of Kabul, but of course you are busy as usual. All the same, will you spare a short time to glancing over this article, because it is very important?

I am in some difficulty and ask your frank guidance, and you must remember that the Amir not unnaturally attaches to the *Civil & Military Gazette* more importance than to most of the other Indian papers, mainly of course owing to geographical reasons. We are nearest to speak first.

Now if I use this article, it ought, from a newspaper point of view, to be used almost at once, because it is dealing with a current magazine. I held it over during the Agra show, as I had no heart to worry you then, but I must use it or suppress it promptly now.

Which?

I will do nothing to embarrass the Government wilfully as it is possible that this article might greatly embarrass you.

On the other hand, it is equally possible that this article holding a view you approve may be of real assistance and one to which you would carefully call the Amir's attention. So it may be very opportune to publish it.

Finally you may be quite indifferent, but even then I don't think you will blame me for writing to you to make sure.

Please send it back sharp. *Saluams.*

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) F. STEVENSON.

*P. S.—*Of course you may consult any one you please about this, though it is marked private.

[ENCLOSURE TO THE ABOVE LETTER.]

Draft *re* our relations with Afghanistan.

No. 73.

To THE HON'BLE MAJOR SIR A. H. McMAHON, K. C. I. E., C. S. I., Chief Officer on Special duty with the Amir of Afghanistan.

Viceroy's Camp, January 15th, 1907.

MY DEAR McMAHON,

I have just received the following telegram from Mr. Archbold, Principal of the Aligarh College :—

"Very bad impression caused, because Amir won't breakfast with Trustees, but in separate room. Prince lunched in same room with Trustees".

I pass this on to you for such action as you may think necessary.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) J. R. DUNLOP SMITH.

No. 74.

Secretary of State to Viceroy. (Foreign Dept.)

P * Telegram, 16th January 1907. (Recd. 11-30 p. m.)

Foreign. Secret. Amir. The proposal referred in your telegram of 15th instant is very important and in itself good. Details will, however, have to be carefully guarded, or we may incur dangerous liabilities as to his young men. Please favour me as soon as possible with your ideas of details which I must receive before definite instructions can be sent to you.

No. 75.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

Telegram, 16th January 1907. (Recd. 17th, 6 a. m.)

1265-A. V. Amir arrived Aligarh 10-40 this morning; inspected buildings of Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College, with which he expressed himself delighted; attended prayers at mosque; and after hearing, without comment, a lecture on political economy and watching a class being taught English, searchingly examined theological class students. He then went into large hall crowded with students and visitors, and received address from College Trustees. In reply, Amir said he was satisfied that all statements, which he had heard that teachings of College were contrary to Mohammedan religion, were calumnies. He had found the students perfect in religious knowledge, and he exhorted them, after having acquired religious knowledge, by all means to learn as much Western knowledge as possible. Amir said he had himself started colleges in Kabul on these lines. He was grateful to Indian Government for allowing him to see Musalmans and for allowing them to approach him. He concluded by promising monthly subscription of Rs. 500, in addition to gift of Rs. 20,000. Amir's remarks were received with enthusiasm. Addressed Foreign, Calcutta.

No. 76.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 17th January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. Amir arrived at Aligarh 10-40 morning 16th, inspected buildings of Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College, with which he expressed himself delighted, attended prayers at mosque, and after hearing without comment

a lecture on political economy, and watching a class being taught English, searchingly examined Theological class students. He then went into large hall crowded with students and visitors and received address from College Trustees. In reply, Amir said that he was satisfied that all statements which he had heard that teachings of college were contrary to Mohammedan religion were calumnies. He had found the students perfect in religious knowledge, and he exhorted them, after having acquired religious knowledge, by all means to learn as much Western knowledge as possible. Amir said that he had himself started college in Kabul on these lines. He was grateful to Indian Government for allowing him to see Musulmans and for allowing them to approach him. He concluded by promising monthly subscription of Rs. 500 in addition to gift of Rs. 20,000. Amir's remarks were received with enthusiasm.

No. 77.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Gwalior, 18th January 1907.

1280-A. V. Amir arrived Cawnpore yesterday at 9 a. m. Drove to Woollen Mills escorted by Cawnpore Light Horse, and after visiting those mills drove in motor to Muir Mills, and thence to a camp which had been prepared for him and party. After a brief rest he was taken to see Cooper Allen's factory and Government Harness and Saddlery manufactories. He made a careful inspection of all four factories and expressed great pleasure and interest in everything he saw. In evening he received a deputation of the Cawnpore Mohammedan community and then visited a small exhibition in camp of products of Cawnpore manufactories. He made several purchases mainly of articles for use of his troops. He seemed to have been greatly struck with Cawnpore and its manufactories. The reception given him by Europeans in Cawnpore was very warm-hearted, and he seemed to have appreciated it. The route of his departure was very prettily illuminated, and he expressed great satisfaction at the arrangements made. He left Cawnpore at 10 p. m.

Addressed Foreign.

No. 78.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Amir's Camp, 18th January 1907.

1301-A. V. With reference to telegram, dated 9th instant, from High Commission, Johannesburg, to His Excellency the Viceroy, please transmit

following reply from Amir to message from Hamidia Islamic Society of the Transvaal :—

Begins. I am pleased to receive your welcome, and always pray to God for the peace and safety of all Mohammedans. (Signed) Siraj-ul-Millat-Waddin.
Ends.

No. 79.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Gwalior, 18th January 1907.

1297-A. V. Amir arrived at Gwalior 8-30 A. M. today, and was received at station by Maharaja and principal officers of State in full dress. Amir drove to palace with Maharaja, road being lined by troops. Maharaja breakfasted with Amir, who then drove to Jumma Masjid in motor car, and afterwards was present at military sports. Maharaja has done everything possible to make visit complete success, and Amir and his suite are visibly impressed with great excellence of arrangements and military display. Attitude of Amir towards the Maharaja very friendly.

Addressed to Foreign.

No. 80.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Foreign Secretary, Calcutta.

* Telegram, Gwalior, 18th January 1907.

Demi-official. Amir now says that, if Governor of Bombay will meet him at station in full-dress uniform, he will count this as visit and pay return visit, but desires this to be of private character. May this be proposed to Bombay Government ?

No. 81.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 19th January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. The Amir of Afghanistan arrived at Gwalior on morning of the 18th January. Maharaja and principal officers of the State, in full dress, received him at the station. Amir with Maharaja drove to the palace, road being lined with troops. Amir and Maharaja breakfasted together, and former then drove to the Jumma Masjid in a motor car, and was present at military sports afterwards. Attitude of Amir very friendly towards Maharaja, who has done everything possible to make visit complete success. Amir and suite are visibly impressed with great excellence of arrangements and military display.

No. 82.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Foreign Secretary, Calcutta.

* Telegram, Gwalior, 19th January 1907.

1312-A. V. Please telegraph to me names of Afghan refugees and officials who have been granted permission to visit Amir at Delhi. Envoy reports following have been invited :—Sardar Mohammed Tahir Khan, Sardar Mohammed Ishak Khan, Khan Mohammed Khan, Mohammed Usman Khan, Sher Mohammed Khan, with two servants each, son of Sardar Mohammed Rafik Khan with one servant, Mirza Ghulam Haidar Khan, Afghan Postmaster, with ten Afghan officials employed in Peshawar district and six servants, Dost Mohammed Khan, Tochi, and Ghulam Rasul Khan, Amir's Agent at Karachi and Bombay, each with two servants. Total about forty men.

No. 83.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Foreign Secretary, Calcutta.

* Telegram, Gwalior, 19th January 1907.

1307-A. V. Amir asked me whether he can bestow diamond Order of Sun on Scindia as mark of his appreciation of his hospitality. Is there any objection if Scindia willingly accepts? Please wire very urgent.

No. 84.

Viceroy to High Commissioner, Johannesburg.

Telegram, 19th January 1907.

Your telegram 9th. Please convey following message to Hamidia Islamic Society of the Transvaal from the Amir of Afghanistan :—

Begins. I am pleased to receive your welcome, and always pray to God for the peace and safety of all Mohammedans. (Signed) Siraj-ul-Millat-Waddin. *Ends.*

No. 85.

His Highness the Maharaja Scindia to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Gwalior, 19th January 1907.

As requested by His Excellency, I report with great pleasure that His Majesty bagged two tigers today.

(36)

No. 86.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, 19th January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. At Cawnpore on 17th Amir, escorted by Cawnpore Light Horse, visited different mills and factories, including Government Harness and Saddlery manufactory. He made careful inspection and expressed great pleasure and interest in everything he saw. In evening he received deputation of the Cawnpore Mohammedan community and then visited a small exhibition in camp of products of Cawnpore manufactories, making several purchases, mainly of articles for use of his troops. The reception given him by Europeans in Cawnpore was very warm-hearted, and he seems to have appreciated it. He left Cawnpore at 10 P. M.

No. 87.

To F. STEVENSON, Esq., *Civil & Military Gazette*, Lahore.

Govt. House, Calcutta, January 19th, 1907.

[Private.]

MY DEAR STEVENSON,

Many thanks for your letter of the 15th and its enclosure. The Viceroy is much obliged to you for letting us see it. Carey is a Bengal Civilian who wanted to serve on the frontier, but whom the Bengal Government would not recommend. To judge from the extracts quoted in the draft article, Carey's ignorance of the real facts is startling. Personally I think it would be as well not to call attention to the U. S. Magazine article. The Amir has not even hinted at the question of direct relations, and his tour has been very successful so far.

As to the throwing open of Afghanistan, if this is done, all other nations will be as free to go there as ourselves, and that is the last thing we want. However, in the present conditions of Afghanistan—national, natural, and diplomatic—it would be impossible to throw the country open.

As far as Government are concerned, the less this question is talked about the better; but I don't think your article would embarrass them very much. So do please act as you think best in your own interests.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) J. R. DUNLOP SMITH.

P. S.—I return the draft.

J. R. D. S.

[ENCLOSURE TO THE ABOVE LETTER.]

Draft article by Major Grey on the Afghan question and the Duke of Argyll.

No. 88.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Gwalior, 20th January 1907.

1345-A. V. Your telegram of the 20th January. I raised the question, because Amir asked my advice in confidence. I have since sounded Scindia, who is not anxious to accept, and I have replied to Amir advising him not to offer Order, as Native Chiefs very sensitive about hospitality and will not willingly accept what might apparently be reward for it.

No. 89.

Viceroy to His Majesty the Amir of Afghanistan.

* Telegram, 20th January 1907.

Accept my heartiest congratulations on bagging two tigers.

No. 90.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Sir H. McMahon, Amir's Camp.

* Telegram, 20th January 1907.

Viceroy finds your journals exceedingly interesting, and trusts you will continue to send them regularly.

(38)

No. 91.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to H. H. the Maharaja Scindia.

* Telegram, 20th January 1907.

Am directed to convey Viceroy's best thanks to Your Highness for Amir's successful bag, which His Excellency feels is due to your personal exertions.

No. 92.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Amir's Camp, 20th January 1907.

1346-A. V. Your telegram. I am sending batch of journals today. Regret pressure of work has prevented my sending them earlier. Will try and send them regularly in future.

No. 93.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Amir's Camp, 20th January 1907.

1321-A. V. Amir yesterday attended review of Gwalior troops, driving out to review ground in motor car. Display was extremely good. At conclusion of review, Maharaja put himself at head of his troops, calling for three cheers for Amir. Amir appeared to have been much struck by such excellence in troops of Native State. In afternoon Amir and small party drove to jungle near Gwalior for tiger shoot, and Amir shot one of two tigers, which pleased him immensely. In evening Amir attended State Banquet, and in reply to speech from Maharaja, who said he was flattered to be only Ruling Chief selected to entertain Amir, said he was very grateful to Government of India for having permitted him to come to Gwalior, and to Maharaja for the many kindnesses shown him.

Addressed to Foreign.

No. 94.

From LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR A. H. McMAHON, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Chief Officer on Special Duty with the Amir of Afghanistan.

Amir's Camp, January 20th, 1907.

MY DEAR DUNLOP SMITH,

I enclose a batch of five journals, *i.e.*, those of 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th of January.

I have been so rushed for time that for the last ten days I haven't had a moment to write these up. Our hours are so erratic that regular work is hopeless for days together.

Today providence intervened, and I've had a whole day for work and wrote all these five diaries up today. They are the record of rather heavy and important days; subsequent days won't require so much writing, and I will send them in in a day or two, after which, *Inshallah*, the diary will become regular and up to time.

The visit here has been a great success. Nothing would be better, *but* it will spoil the Amir for anything else in India. I foresaw that, but it will be worth it. The effect on Amir has been excellent, and he has behaved prettily.

Please forgive a hurried scrawl.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) A. H. McMAHON.

P. S.—If you have had any copies made of my diaries, could you send me a complete set from the beginning? I have kept no copy.

No. 95.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Delhi, 21st January 1907.

1359-A. V. Amir spent quiet day on 20th at Gwalior, visiting the Fort and palace and left Gwalior at 11 P.M., after taking affectionate leave of

Maharaja. Arrived at Delhi 9 A. M. today, and started almost immediately to visit the Fort, Kuth, tombs of Nizam-ud-din-au-li-ya and Humayun. Information received today that Afghan troops returned from Agra crossed the frontier yesterday.

Addressed to Foreign.

No. 96.

Foreign Secretary to Officer in charge, Amir's tour.

* Telegram, 21st January 1907.

S.49 Your telegram 1312-A. V., dated 19th. On 7th December Envoy asked that permission might be given for the first five men named by you to proceed to Delhi no pay respects to Amir. He also asked for Sardar Ata Mohammed Khan to be allowed to go. Permission was given accordingly. No mention was made of son of Mohammed Rafik Khan or any of the other persons or servants for any of them. On occasion of Inayatulla's visit, we declined to make special railway arrangements for Afghan refugees.

No. 97.

Foreign Secretary to Officer in charge, Amir's tour.

* Telegram, 21st January 1907.

Your telegram of 20th January. Afghan Order for Scindia. Your action approved.

No. 98.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Delhi, 21st January 1907.

1361-A. V. Although we have been unable up to the present to obtain Amir's consent to definite programme for Calcutta, following provisional programme has been drawn up, but it is impossible to say how far it will be carried out :—Monday, January 28th, 9 A. M.—arrival, morning rest; afternoon, Zoological Garden; evening, drive along Red Road. Tuesday, 29th—morning, Mint and Museum; afternoon, Lady Minto's Fête. Wednesday, 30th—morning, Medical College and Hospital; afternoon, Ishapore and Cossipore Factories.

Thursday, 31st—morning, Botanical Gardens ; afternoon, Lady Minto's Fête. Friday, February 1st—morning, blank ; afternoon, visit Docks in launch and river trip. Saturday, 2nd—morning, Tittaghur Paper Mills and Barrackpore ; take leave of Viceroy there in evening. Sunday, 3rd—Departure. Addressed Foreign ; repeated Army ; Military Supply ; Military Secretary to Viceroy ; Chief Secretary, Bengal ; Commissioner of Police, Calcutta ; Collector, 24-Perganahs.

No. 99.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 21st January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Amir witnessed review of Gwalior troops on 19th and was struck by their excellence. Maharaja called for three cheers for Amir. In beat near Gwalior Amir shot a tiger. At banquet Maharaja said he was flattered to be Ruling Chief selected to entertain Amir, and latter expressed his gratitude to Government of India for letting him go to Gwalior and to Maharaja for many kindnesses.

No. 100.

FROM THE HON'BLE LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR A. H. McMAHON, K.C.I.E.,
Chief Officer on Special Duty with the Amir of Afghanistan.

Delhi, January 21st, 1907.

DEAR DUNLOP SMITH,

Another struggle and five more diaries today. I'm dead.

Yours in haste,

(Sd.) A. H. McMAHON.

P. S.—Please acknowledge, if only by a line, receipt of yesterday's diaries and today's, i. e., of 9th to 18th, inclusive.

No. 101.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Officer in charge, Amir's tour.

Telegram, 22nd January 1907.

Will feel obliged if you can arrange that Fakhrudin Ahmed, Attaché accompanies you when Amir visits Calcutta.

(42)

No. 102.

H. M. the Amir of Afghanistan to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Amir's Camp, 22nd January 1907.

Thank you very much for your kind congratulation. I am highly thankful for your kindness and the Maharaja Sahib for his good arrangements.

No. 103.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Delhi, 22nd January 1907.

1363-A. V. Amir has asked McMahon as special favour to arrange if not against rule for salute to be fired by battery Delhi on the 25th January in honour of Id. Amir first suggested 101 guns, number fired at Id in Kabul, but McMahon laughed at the idea and deprecated any number exceeding 31 guns.

Kindly telegraph whether proposal can be sanctioned.

No. 104.

Foreign Secretary to Officer in charge, Amir's tour.

* Telegram, 22nd January 1907.

Amir's request for "Id salute." We do not allow salutes on religious festivals, not even at Xmas or Easter, in this country, where all religions must be held on an equality. Please explain this to Amir, and say that it is regretted that rule cannot be set aside even in his case. If Mohammedans wish to let off *golas* in mosque as sign of rejoicing, you can probably arrange for this with Commissioner, but tension between Hindus and Mohammedans usually existing at Delhi must be borne in mind, and all risk of any regrettable incident avoided.

Repeated to Punjab.

No. 105.

Officer-in-charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Ajmer, 23rd January 1907.

1400-A. V. Amir left Delhi evening of the 21st by special train with some 50 Sardars and followers for Karnal. Left train at Karnal 8-30 A.M. on 22nd, and went by motor car and elephant to Jhil for duck-shoot. Large number of ducks and geese were on Jhil, but rose out of shot. A very small bag only was made. The Amir shot extremely well, and nearly whole bag fell to his gun. It included geese, ducks, partridges, hares, and a peacock. Amir was very pleased with the day out and returned to Delhi in evening. He transhipped on arrival into narrow-gauge train and started for Ajmer at 9 P.M.

Addressed to Foreign.

No. 106.

Private Secy. to Viceroy to Officer in charge, Amir's tour.

* Telegram, 23rd January 1907.

Your telegram of 21st, 1361 A. V. Amir's Calcutta programme. Viceroy considers all proposals suitable, but hopes you will tell Amir Viceroy is anxious Amir's time should not be too fully taken up.

No. 107.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 23rd January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Amir spent quiet day at Gwalior on 20th, and after taking affectionate leave of Maharaja arrived Delhi on 21st. He started immediately to visit places of interest. Afghan troops returning from Agra crossed frontier on 20th.

No. 108.

Secretary of State to Viceroy. (Foreign Dept.)

P. * Telegram, 24th January 1907, 8-55 p. m. (Recd. 25th, 6-30 a. m.)

Foreign. Secret. Military education of Afghan Sardars. Your telegram of today. I think it is impossible to refuse point-blank; but at the same

time it is easy to foresee both immediate and future possible difficulties. The Amir ought to be made to understand that his young friends, like Princes of our own Royal family, will have to observe the same rules of discipline as other people. When the scheme is ready, I shall be glad to see it.

No. 109.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 24th January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign Amir spent 22nd shooting at Karnal. Nothing of importance to report.

No. 110.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, 24th January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. Military education of Afghan Sirdars. Your telegram 16th January. The subject has been alluded to by the Amir in such vague terms that it is impossible at present to formulate details of any definite scheme. We propose, with your concurrence, to go into the subject with him more fully while he is in Calcutta, and we hope then to be in a position to submit to you a scheme either for the purely military education of young Afghan Sirdars, or for the education of well-born boys at the Aligarh or Lahore Colleges to be followed by a military course.

No. III.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, 24th January 1907.

1402-A. V. Amir arrived at Ajmer 8-30 yesterday with small party of some seventy Sirdars and followers, was met by Chief Commissioner and Commissioner, and drove straight to Chisti Shrine, where he was received with elaborate ceremonies by priests. Amir then visited Arhaidinka Jhampra, in which he took great interest, and afterwards rested for two hours in Shah Jehan Marble Pavilion on Anasagar Dam, which had been beautifully fitted up for occasion. Amir expressed himself delighted with scenery and air, which he

said reminded him of Afghanistan. In afternoon Amir, at request of owners, visited Jain Temple, which he examined with much interest. He then inspected Mayo College and Railway Workshop, and left Ajmer at 6 P. M.

Addressed Foreign.

No. 112.

From SIR LOUIS DANE, K. C. I. E., C. S. I., Secy. to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

Calcutta, January 24th, 1907.

[Private.]

MY DEAR DUNLOP SMITH,

The question now arises how, if at all, the discussion of the manner in which the military training of Afghan Sardars, in pursuance of the Amir's suggestion at Agra, should be introduced.

This could be done—

- (1) By us with reference to his remarks.
- (2) By giving him an opportunity of renewing his suggestion.
- (3) By leavng him to bring up the matter again if he really means anything.

I do not think that we need adopt the first course unless the Amir has again mentioned the subject to Sir H. McMahon and shown that he expects an answer to his suggestion, which in such a case would become and should be treated as a definite proposal. This might be ascertained from Sir H. McMahon.

I am in considerable doubt, however, which of the other courses should be followed. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief favours the latter course, and thinks that we should avoid giving the Amir an easy chance of bringing up the subject and force him to make his own opportunity. For that reason His Excellency is glad that the Amir's time will be fully taken up while he is here.

There is much to be said in favour of hanging back and letting him press forward, as we may be able to strike a better bargain in that way. There is, however, the risk of his seeing that we are hanging back—he is very acute in such matters—and of his taking offence at our want of ready reciprocal action. In such a case he might refuse to move again and return to Kabul disgusted as others have done, with our lukewarmness.

I am therefore disposed to think that, without showing any undue eagerness in the matter, it would be well to give him some opportunity of opening

his mind on this and any cognate subject that he may wish to bring forward. His reception is to be informal at his own request. I could, however, go to Hastings House either to induct him and enquire after his health on behalf of His Excellency, or to make over to him the presents which we have here for him.

It would be easy for me or you to enquire if he still desired to have a private interview with His Excellency, as he has said on several occasions that he does. In reply, he would perhaps develope his ideas, or he could even be asked to state in general terms the matters, if any, which he wished to mention to His Excellency, so that time might not be wasted at the interview.

Another method would be for me to accompany him to the gun factories. His mind would be directed to military matters, and if he wished to pursue his idea of training his Sardars' sons, he could easily mention the matter. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is not in favour of this being done.

The whole question is very difficult, and one has to steer between the Scylla of being too hot and the worse Charybdis of being too cold. The Amir has put forward an idea, and Secretary of State considers it good in itself. The attitude of friendly expectancy, I think, requires that we should at any rate give him a suitable opportunity of developing his suggestion, if he wishes to do so.

Perhaps you will kindly let me know His Excellency's wishes on the subject.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) LOUIS W. DANE.

No. 113.

From LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR A. H. McMAHON, K. C. I. E., C. S. I., Chief Officer on Special Duty with the Amir of Afghanistan.

Delhi, January 24th, 1907.

MY DEAR DUNLOP SMITH,

Another batch of three diaries. I hope to finish all arrears and get up to date while His Majesty is devoting his day, tomorrow, to the religious functions of the *Id*.

We got back this morning from Ajmer, where we had a delightful but strenuous day. The Amir is going strong—stronger than we are! He's a marvellous man. The German Emperor isn't in it, with him.

Yours in haste,

(Sd.) A. H. McMAHON.

P. S.—As regards Calcutta social fixtures, the only one I've made yet is a dinner party by Commander-in-Chief to His Majesty on 30th.

No. II4.

FROM LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR A. H. McMAHON, K. C. I. E., C. S. I., Chief Officer on Special Duty with the Amir of Afghanistan.

Delhi, January 25th, 1907.

MY DEAR DUNLOP SMITH,

Herewith three more diaries, *i. e.*, up to last night, so I am up to date at last. It has been a struggle getting so.

The *Id* has so far gone off splendidly. It is now evening, and all we have left in the day's programme is a drive round at 7 to see the illuminations in the city.

I was afraid of ructions today over the *Id*. Delhi, as you know, is a troublesome place, but all is going well. The Amir wants to go to the illuminations, and it is better to take him.

Yours in haste,

(Sd.) A. H. McMAHON.

No. II5.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 25th January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Amir spent 23rd at Ajmer, taking only a small party. He drove to the Chisti shrine, and visited other places of interest, including a Jain temple. He inspected Mayo College and Railway Workshops, returning by train in evening to Delhi.

No. II6.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Delhi, 25th January 1907.

Demi-official. Please refer to your demi-official telegram of the 21st January regarding visits at Bombay. Following telegram received from Bombay :—

Begins. His Excellency would prefer not to meet Amir at the railway station, but he is content to leave himself in the Viceroy's hands in the matter. If he does not meet Amir at the railway station, he would gladly pay official visit to Amir on arrival and receive official return visit. If he does meet Amir at the railway station, he thinks that the Amir should visit him officially and if the Amir will not visit him officially unless he also visits Amir officially, then His Excellency would be willing to pay official return visit. *Ends.*

It is unlikely that Amir will wish to take part in two ceremonial visits at Bombay, which would be involved by Governor's proposal. We understand that his reluctance is due, firstly, to dislike of wearing his heavy full-dress uniform in hot climate as he is feeling heat greatly even at Delhi; secondly, to anxiety not to waste time in formalities, his time in Bombay being short. We propose therefore that there shall be no exchange of visits, and that only high officials formerly suggested shall meet Amir at station. This would not of course prevent Amir from accepting His Excellency's invitation to dinner and to reception. In somewhat similar circumstances Amir dined with Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, at Peshawar, although no visits were exchanged.

Repeated Bombay Political.

No. II7.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Dhi, 25th January 1907.

1431-A. V. Your telegram 299-I. C. of 22nd. We will try to arrange, as you suggest, that Medical College and Hospital shall be added to programme of 29th, and whole of 30th devoted to Ishapore and Cossipore.

Addressed Foreign, Calcutta; repeated Army; Military Supply; Military Secretary to Viceroy; Chief Secretary, Bengal; Commissioner of Police, Calcutta; Collector, 24-Perganahs.

(49)

No. 118.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Sir A. McMahon.

Telegram, 25th January 1907.

Your letter 21st. Diaries 9th to 18th, inclusive, safely received.

No. 119.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Amir's Camp, 26th January 1907.

1443-A. V. On 24th January Amir arrived at Delhi from Ajmer at 8-30 A. M. Visited Native Flour Mills, Biscuit Factory, and Cotton Mills in morning and rested in afternoon. Amir appeared pay special attention to Cotton Mills, as he is contemplating their erection in Afghanistan, and is in negotiations with Cawnpore firm on the subject. On 25th January, *Bakar-Id* festival, Amir attended *Id* prayers at *Idgah* at 9 A. M., and Friday prayer at Jumma Mosque about 1 P. M. Immense crowd of Mussulmans from all parts of the country were present at both ceremonies. Amir expressed pleasure at excellent manner in which mosque is kept up, but rather demurred having to take off his boots, which, he said, he had never done before for prayers in mosques. He wished to present silver lamps and candelabra to mosques in commemoration of his visit. He refused to accept addresses from Mussulmans attached to mosques, which he characterised as mere begging letters, and also from Hindus and seemed altogether tired of addresses and ceremonies and to be anxious that remainder of tour shall be as informal as possible. Over 100 goats were sacrificed, but no cows. Amir constituted Colonel Abdul Majid Khan of Patiala, his deputy, for sacrifices of all but three goats. At 3 P. M. Amir received all British officers on special duty with him with Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, and officers of escort, who congratulated him on *Id*, and received presents of sweetmeats from him. He afterwards received Indian Attachés. In evening he drove round city to witness illuminations. He seems to feel heat considerably, but is in good spirits and still enjoying himself. Amir has finally decided to take 200 Sardars and followers to Calcutta, balance of party returning immediately to Afghanistan.

Addressed Foreign.

(50)

No. 120.

Foreign Secretary to Officer in charge, Amir's tour.

* Telegram, 26th January 1907.

Amir's presents. In view of Inayatulla incident and great stress laid at Kabul on necessity for guests first producing presents we are unwilling to hand over ours at once on Amir's arrival. I have arranged for large articles to be put in order and arranged as furniture of Hastings House. Other things are stored in small room and can be got out at any time. If Amir is going to send over his presents immediately on arrival or is writing to explain delay, and you consider this specially necessary, I can arrange on behalf of Viceroy and Government of India to make over presents to him on morning of 28th, either on arrival or later in the morning, when Private Secretary to the Viceroy and I would wait on Amir to welcome him and enquire after his health.

No. 121.

To LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR A. H. McMAHON, K. C. I. E., C. S. I., Chief Officer on Special Duty with the Amir of Afghanistan.

Govt. House, Calcutta, January 26th, 1907.

MY DEAR McMAHON,

I have to thank you for your two letters of the 20th and 24th, forwarding eight journals all together. The Viceroy quite understands the great strain, that so rarely relaxes, which the energy of the Amir and the irregular hours impose on you. His Excellency finds the journals more than interesting and they will form a very valuable record. Gwalior was evidently a *succes fou* and Scindia *has* played up.

I am arranging for you to have three copies of your journals. They are all being printed as they arrive and they go home to the Secretary of State.

I send copies, "for perusal and return", to the Foreign Secretary. After His Majesty has gone and the necessity for special secrecy has passed, we will give the Foreign Office the set for confidential record.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) J. R. DUNLOP SMITH

No. 122.

To E. V. S. GABRIEL, Esq., c. v. o.

Govt. House, Calcutta, January 26th, 1907.

MY DEAR GABRIEL,

Excuse a type-written letter. I submitted your most interesting letter about the Gwalior visit to the Viceroy, who asks me to send you his best thanks. It told one exactly what one wanted to know. The Maharaja has played up extremely well, and his attitude throughout seems to have been perfect. The Viceroy used one or two bits of the information you gave in his last letter to the Secretary of State.

I note what you say about the Chiefs. On the whole they took the honours paid to the Amir much better than I expected, but there was a certain amount of heartburning which was inevitable. Altogether, however, I think it was a good move to have them there.

I return Sir Curzon Wyllie's interesting letter.* I quite agree with you that White's management of the Raj-Kumar of Sikkim was not wise, but he is now under the India Office, and I hope matters will improve.

I return also the telegram from the Maharaja of Benares. He sent a very similar one to me.

I hope the winding up business at Agra won't take you very long, and that you will be back in time for this great Fête.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) J. R. DUNLOP SMITH.

[ENCLOSURE TO THE ABOVE LETTER.]

Telegram from Maharaja of Benares to V. Gabriel, Esq., dated 15th January 1907.

* Will be returned later.

J. Scott.

No. 123.

Sir A. H. McMahon to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Dildarnagar, 27th January 1907.

1464. Your telegram. I doubt if Amir can manage to send his presents before day after his arrival. We had better keep as many as possible of our presents locked up and ready for display and presentation on some later day on Amir's return from one of his day's outings. Please inform Duke.

No. I24.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Amir's Camp, 27th January 1907.

1470. Amir yesterday morning revisited Delhi Jumma Masjid and spent morning there climbing to summits of one of the minarets. He thence visited ruins of the city of Feroz Shah and Purana Killah, in which he took great interest. On returning to Circuit House he interviewed several commercial representatives from Cawnpore, who had brought patterns and specimens ordered by him there, and gave orders of considerable value, notably one hundred transport carts. He is trying to induce Mr. McRobert, President of Upper India Chamber of Commerce, to go to Kabul to start a small wool factory there. Amir left Delhi at 4-30 p. m. having apparently thoroughly enjoyed his stay. Out of 600 persons who had been with him since Agra 400 have been sent back from Delhi to Afghanistan and only 200 remaining in India till the end of the tour.

Addressed to Foreign.

No. I25.

To SIR LOUIS DANE, K. C. I. E., C. S. I., Secy. to the Govt of India, Foreign Dept.

Govt. House, Calcutta, January 27th, 1907.

MY DEAR DANE,

Yours of the 24th about a possible discussion with the Amir about the training of his Sardars, and any other matters which are on the tapis.. His Excellency has considered your letter very carefully, and thinks that it will be best if he himself, in a strictly private conversation, asks the Amir if he has anything to say. His Excellency could do this at the first opportunity, he has, say, some afternoon when the Amir comes to tea. An interpreter—preferably McMahon—would be the only person present, so that the talk would be as unofficial as possible.

The Viceroy approves of us two going to do "Mizaj-pursi" tomorrow morning at 8-30, but this ceremony should be as brief and informal as possible, and no chance should be given him of developing his ideas then.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) J. R. DUNLOP SMITH.

No. 126.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, 28th January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. On 26th Amir revisited Delhi Jumma Masjid. He thence visited ruins city Ferozshah and Purana Killa, in which he took great interest. On return to Circuit House he interviewed several commercial representatives from Cawnpore, and gave orders of considerable value, notably 100 transport carts. He is trying to induce Mr. McRoberts, President of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, to go to Kabul to start small wool factory there. Amir left Delhi at 4-30 p. m., and arrived Calcutta morning of 28th. Private reception at his own request. Very large crowds, Europeans and Natives, on route which Amir followed to Hastings House, where Government gifts were presented to him on arrival. He has declined to receive all addresses here on ground that visit is private.

No. 127.

Copy of a demi-official letter, from H. B. C. Dobbs, Esq., C. I. E., I. C. S., Officer in charge of the Amir's tour, to E. H. S. Clarke, Esq., C. I. E., Deputy Secretary, Foreign Department, Calcutta, dated 30th January 1907.

The following is a brief account of the Amir's movements since his arrival in Calcutta :—

January, 28th.—His Majesty arrived at 8-30 A. M. and drove to Hastings House. The route was crowded with native sight-seers, who gave him an enthusiastic welcome. At about 1 p. m. His Majesty visited the Mint, and spent about two hours there. He displayed considerable interest, but seemed struck by the antiquity of the machines (most of which date from 1860), and remarked that he had read in the newspapers that out-of-date machines like these were fit only for the scrap heap.

His Majesty next visited the Museum and took special interest in the Geological and Zoological sections. He asked Mr. Holland, Director-General of Geology, whether he might send him specimens of stones found in Afghanistan for identification, and spoke about the great mining possibilities of his country. He wanted that he might ask to have geological experts lent him by the Government of India.

He also asked to be allowed to send coins to the Museum for identification. He took no interest in the Victoria Memorial exhibits.

Towards evening, His Majesty visited the Zoological Gardens, but had not time to see much, except the lions and tigers. He is to visit them another day.

January, 29th.—His Majesty spent from 9 A. M to noon inspecting the Medical College and Hospital with Major Bird, I. M. S. He watched several operations and also dissections, explaining that he did not like these sights, which took away his appetite, but he thought it necessary to see everything. In the afternoon His Majesty visited the Army and Navy Co-operative Stores and purchased a good deal of furniture, such as roll-top tables, revolving book-cases, and plain camp chairs, and also several novelties in the way of table silver.

In the evening at about 4 P. M. His Majesty went by launch to Botanical Gardens, which he said he would revisit. He asked the Curator if he could arrange to send him competent gardeners to Kabul, and ordered some palms and other plants.

In the evening His Majesty dined privately with the Viceroy and went on to the Minto Fancy Fête, where he showed a keen interest in the Military display, and afterwards made considerable purchases at Lady Minto's Stall.

No. 128.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 31st January 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. On 28th Amir visited Mint and Museum, showing special interest in Geological and Zoological sections of latter. He spoke to Holland, Director, Geological Survey, of mining possibilities of his country, and hinted that he might ask to have Geological experts sent him by Government of India. On morning 29th he spent three hours inspecting Medical College and Hospital, watching several operations and dissections. In afternoon he went by launch to Botanical Gardens, where he asked Curator if he could send competent gardeners to Kabul. He dined privately with Viceroy and went on to Lady Minto's Fête afterwards.

No. 129.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

Telegram, 1st February 1907.

1519-A. V. Amir wishes to stay two days longer in Calcutta. We have accordingly arranged that he shall leave Howrah at noon on February 5th instead of on February 3rd. Stay at Sehagpur will be reduced, but other dates remain unaltered. All concerned have been informed. Amir inspects Sodepur colliery on February 5th, halting at Sitarampur station for purpose. Addressed Foreign.

No. 130.

FROM H. DOBBS, Esq., Officer in charge, Amir's tour (to Private Secretary to the Viceroy).

Amir's Camp, February 1st, 1907.

DEAR COLONEL,

I send herewith one of our Attachés, Kazi Aziz-ud-din Ahmad, with the presents which are contained in the enclosed list, which were made to His Excellency the Viceroy yesterday by the Amir. I understand that His Excellency decided that these presents should not be sent into the Foreign Office Toshakhana. Would you kindly have a receipt sent to me?

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) H. DOBBS.

[ENCLOSURE TO THE ABOVE LETTER.]

Presents from His Majesty the Amir to His Excellency the Viceroy.

- (1) 2 Cut glass inkpots and silver inkstand.
- (2) 2 Gold egg-cups jewelled with emeralds, &c.
- (3) Cigarette-case, match-holder, and cigarette-holder in chased gold with pictures in enamel.
- (4) Pair of hair brushes, gold backed with turquoise.
- (5) Silver Japanese cup for table.
- (6) 2 Silver chairs.
- (7) 4 Khaz-i-zulmati skins stitched together in pairs.
- (8) 2 Khaz-i-mehtabi skins stitched together.
- (9) 4 Sanjab dumdar skins stitched together in pairs.
- (10) 2 Saosar skins stitched together.
- (11) 2 Kamehat skins (otter skins, grey).
- (12) 3 Sagali skin (grey and brown otter skins).
- (13) 30 Black Astrakhan skins.
- (14) 6 Post-i-Khalili (brown and black lamb skins).
- (15) 5 Post-i-Mehrabi (black and white lamb skins).
- (16) 30 Grey Astrakhan skins.
- (17) 4 Postin rugs edged with Astrakhan.
- (18) 4 Postins of Ghazni.
- (19) 4 Rolls of Kabul Pattu.
- (20) 3 " white Kurk.
- (21) 3 " brown Kurk.
- (22) 6 " Kakma.
- (23) 6 " barak of De Tangi.
- (24) 12 " Kabul Kashmira.
- (25) 2 Large Turcoman carpets.

No. 131.

Copy of a demi-official letter from H. R. C. Dobbs, Esq., C. I. E., to E. H. S. Clarke, Esq., C. I. E., Deputy Secretary, Foreign Department, Calcutta, dated 1st February 1907.

The following is a summary of the past two days:—

January 30th.—The Amir spent the whole day at Cossipore, Dum-Dum, and Ishapore inspecting the factories there. In the evening he dined with the Commander-in-Chief at Fort William and visited the Minto Fête for the second time.

January 31st.—The Amir was shown round the Docks in a special train by the Port Commissioners between 8-30 and 9-30 A. m. He took very little interest in the Docks and shipping, as he said that he had no ships or harbours in Afghanistan. After leaving the Docks, he crossed to the Botanical Gardens, where he remained till noon; and then visited Lazarus' shop, where he made large purchases of furniture. About 4 p. m. His Majesty received His Excellency the Viceroy informally at Hastings House, and gave him the presents which he had brought with him from Afghanistan. His Excellency and the Amir then went by motor car to Tollygunj, where they shot clay pigeons till dusk, the Amir evidently enjoying himself immensely. In the evening after dinner the Amir again visited the Minto Fête, going to all the side-shows, floating down the artificial river in a boat, shooting at targets, &c.

No. 132.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, 2nd February 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign Secret. Guthrie's claims for gun-forgings. Your telegram 24th January. We have, in accordance with your instructions, carefully abstained from discussing business with Amir in India, and if we now mention Messrs. Guthrie & Co.'s case, we shall probably be compelled to take up the cases of the widow of the late Mr. Fleischer and Messrs. Martin & Co., in regard to both of which we are being pressed respectively by German Consulate-General and the firm concerned. The accounts of the latter have actually been audited by Accountant appointed at request of Abdur Rahman. Guthrie's banker was authorised to approach Amir on subject at Peshawar if latter was willing to receive a petition, and he wrote twice to the Afghan Envoy, but received no answer. The Amir knows that the forgings are at his disposal at any time,

but has never claimed these, and repudiates any liability to Guthrie on his own account. The matter was mentioned to the Itimad-ud-Daula by Sir L. Dane at Kabul in March 1905, when a promise was made that the affair would be settled. It might involve us in trouble with Guthrie if Amir is given forgings by us before he settles accounts with firm. We are therefore averse to raising question again now before the Amir leaves India.

No. 133.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 2nd February 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. On 30th January Amir spent whole day at Cossipore, Dum-Dum, and Ishapore, inspecting factories there. In evening he dined with Commander-in-Chief and visited Lady Minto's Fête for second time.

On January 31st Amir visited Docks and Botanical Gardens. In afternoon he received Viceroy informally at Hastings House and gave him presents which he had brought from Afghanistan. In evening he again visited Fête. Amir's stay in Calcutta has been prolonged for two days at his own request. He leaves noon 5th for Sohagpur.

No. 134.

Copy of a demi-official letter from H. R. C. Dobbs, Esq., C. I. E., to E. H. S. Clarke, Esq., C. I. E., dated 2nd February 1907.

Yesterday (February 1st) the Amir revisited the Zoological Gardens at 8-30 A. M. Thence he drove to Prinsep's Ghat and called on the Duke and Duchess of Manchester in the private yacht in which they are living. He then went to Bourne & Shepherd, Photographers, where he spent about three hours, a number of photographs being taken of him in various costumes. He returned to Hastings House at 3 P. M. (too late for Friday prayers); and at 4-30 P. M. went for the fourth time to the Minto Fête, where he made large purchases. In the evening he dined with the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, played the piano, sang to his own accompaniment, and seemed to enjoy himself immensely.

(58)

No. 135.

R.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 4th February 1907. (Despd. from Freign Dept.)

Foreign. On morning February 1st Amir visited Duke and Duchess, Manchester, on board private yacht. In evening he dined with Lieutenant-Governor, Bengal. On 2nd February Amir spent whole day shopping, and in evening dined quietly with Lord Kitchener. On 3rd he visited Viceroy at Barrackpore. Amir's visit to Sohagpur has been abandoned, and he now leaves Calcutta on 8th instant.

No. 136.

FROM H. R. C. DOBBS, Esq., c. i. e., Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to E. H. S. CLARKE, Esq., c. i. e., Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

Amir's Camp, February 5th, 1907.

MY DEAR CLARKE,

Yesterday the Amir remained at Hastings House until about 3 p. m., buying miscellaneous goods from numbers of tradesmen who had come there apparently at his invitation. He then went out and spent the whole of the rest of the day in the Army and Navy Stores, making further large purchases, including motor car-tools and billiard tables. We find that we shall probably have to run a special goods train from here to Peshawar to carry the things he has bought.

In the evening His Majesty went to the Minto Fête, where he spent most of the time going round in the crowd with Sir Henry McMahon alone. He met the Duke and Duchess of Manchester there, went home with them to their yacht for supper, and did not get back to Hastings House until 3-30 a. m.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) H. DOBBS.

No. 137.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Calcutta, 6th February 1907.

1055-A. V. My No. 1618-A. V. of 4th. Amir's stay in Calcutta has been extended by one more day. His Majesty will now leave Howrah at 11-30 A. M., Standard time, on February 9th instead of February 8th, arriving at Bombay at 7-20 A. M. on February 12th instead of February 11th. Addressed Foreign, Calcutta. Repeated Army; Military Supply; Finance; Home; Commerce and Industry; Military Secretary to the Viceroy; Chief; Bengal; Collector, 24-Parganahs; Commissioner of Police, Calcutta; Director-General of Posts; Director-General of Telegraphs; Adjutant-General, India; General Officer Commanding, Fort William; Director, Royal Indian Marine; and Secretary, Naval Commander-in-Chief, with intimation that date of naval display will not be altered.

No. 138.

To HIS MAJESTY THE AMIR OF AFGHANISTAN, Hastings House, Calcutta.

Govt. House, Calcutta, February 6th, 1907.

SIR,

I write to thank Your Majesty for the three beautiful photographs you have sent to me.

I shall always value them in memory of Your Majesty's visit to India, and the great pleasure that visit has afforded me.

I beg to remain,
Your Majesty's sincere friend,
(Sd.) MINTO.

No. 139.

FROM H. R. C. DOBBS, Esq., c. i. e., Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to E. H. S. CLARKE, Esq., c. i. e., Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

Amir's Camp, February 6th, 1907.

MY DEAR CLARKE,

Yesterday the Amir spent from 11-30 to 3 P. M. calling on the Duke and Duchess of Manchester at the Grand Hotel. He then revisited the Army

and Navy Stores, and at 5-30 p. m. went to the Industrial Exhibition with the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. He spent some time examining the exhibits, especially the jewellery. At sunset he prayed in a public place and invited any Mohammedans in the crowd to join him (probably as a compensation for the disappointment, voiced in the papers, of the Mussalmans at his not attending Friday Service at the Mosque), but only two joined him. On being shown a representation both of a temple and mosque outlined in electric light, His Majesty said that it was very desirable that Mussalmans and Hindus should dwell together at unity in countries where their lots were cast together. In the evening His Majesty dined quietly with the Viceroy and was shown over Government House.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) H. DOBBS.

No. 140.

FROM SIR LOUIS DANE, K. C. I. E., C. S. I., Secretary to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

Calcutta, February 6th, 1907.

DEAR DUNLOP,

Carlyle wishes to know if the addresses of the Central Mohammedan Association and other bodies which the Amir decided not to receive formally should be sent to him or not.

Perhaps McMahon might be asked to ascertain his wishes. If he wants them, they could be sent through the Bengal Government to McMahon.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) L. W. DANE.

No. 141.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

Telegram, 7th February 1907.

1695-A. V. Amir's visit to Sodepur Colliery abandoned. Amir will leave Howrah evening of February 9th. Timings will be communicated later. Addressed Foreign. Repeated Army Department; Military Supply; Finance; Home; Commerce and Industry; Military Secretary to Viceroy; Chief;

Bengal; Collector, 24-Parganahs; Commissioner of Police, Calcutta; General Officer Commanding, Calcutta; Director-General, Post; Director-General, Telegraphs; Adjutant-General, India.

No. 142.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

Telegram, 7th February 1907.

1720-A. V. Continuation my telegram 1695-A. V. of today. Amir leaves Howrah at 12-15 hours, Standard time (22-39 hours, Calcutta time), on February 9th. Addressed Foreign. Repeated Army, &c., and Military Secretary to Viceroy.

No. 143.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, 7th February 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. Nothing of interest to record in connection with Amir's visit during last three days, except that he visited Industrial Exhibition on 5th and has spent a good deal of time with mercantile firms and tradesmen. In order to be present at State Ball on 8th, he has postponed departure from Calcutta till 9th.

No. 144.

To E. H. S. CLARKE, Esq., c. i. e., Deputy Secy. to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

Amir's Camp, India, February 7th, 1907.

[Confidential.]

MY DEAR CLARKE,

I am sorry to have delayed my report for yesterday. The Amir stayed at home buying miscellaneous articles from tradesmen until the afternoon. He then went to Burne & Co.'s factory and spent three hours there, ordering, among other things, a suspension bridge believed to be for the Kabul River near Jalalabad. About 5 P. M. he visited the Foreign Office, where you know all that took place. He went thence to take tea at the Minto Fête, and dined

with the Afghan Envoy, returning from his house at about 1-30 A. M. He refused to see a *nautch*, which the Envoy wished to show him, and treated the ladies with some coldness. Today the Amir stayed in his house again till 1 P. M., when he drove to the Duke of Manchester's yacht, and lunched there, not leaving till 4 P. M. He then went to the Minto Fête, and spent till about 7-30 P. M. in the Café Chantant and Tea-room, making a good many presents. In the evening he dined with the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) H. DOBBS.

P. S.—I leave for Sohagpur this evening.

No. 145.

MEMORANDUM.

Calcutta, February 8th, 1907.

No. 1751-A.V.

In continuation of the telegram from this office, No. 1720-A. V., dated the 7th February 1907, it is notified, for information, that His Majesty the Amir of Afghanistan will leave Howrah at 10-15 P. M., Standard time (10-39 P. M. Calcutta time), on February 9th, arriving at Bombay at 7-20 A. M. on February 12th.

(Sd.) RAMSAY,

for Officer in charge of Amir's tour.

No. 146.

[*CONFIDENTIAL.*]

AMIR'S MOVEMENTS..

8th February 1907.—Yesterday His Majesty attended service at the mosque in the morning. In the afternoon he attended a football match.

In the evening he attended the State ball at Government House.

9th February 1907.—Today he received Sir Louis Dane in the morning, and then drove to Government House to pay a call on Her Excellency Lady Minto.

After lunch there he goes to see the races.

This evening he dines with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and departs for Bombay.

No. 147.

To SIR LOUIS DANE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

Govt. House, Calcutta, February 9th, 1907.

MY DEAR DANE,

Yours of the 6th. I have seen McMahon, who says certainly the addresses of the Central Mohammedan Association and other bodies may be sent on for submission to the Amir. They might certainly be sent through the Bengal Government.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) J. R. DUNLOP SMITH.

No. 148.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 9th February 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. During last two or three days Amir has spent most of his time in amusement and making purchases. He visited Burn & Company's Factory on 6th, and ordered, among other things, a suspension bridge, believed to be for Kabul River near Jalalabad. He also visited the Foreign and Military Offices and dined with his Envoy, on 6th.

No. 149.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

* Telegram, 10th February 1907.

1814-A. V. Your telegram regarding arrival ceremonies and calls. Viceroy has been consulted, and thinks change is to be preferred. Meeting by His Excellency the Governor at station will be taken as a visit, and Amir will then visit Governor without return call.

Addressed Bombay Political.

No. 150.

FROM LIEUT.-COL. SIR A. H. McMAHON, K. C. I. E., C. S. I., Chief Officer on Special Duty with the Amir of Afghanistan.

Amir's Camp, Train, Allahabad, February 10th, 1907.

DEAR LORD MINTO,

Your Excellency may have heard of what took place on the Amir's departure from Lord Kitchener's house last night.

On getting to the foot of the steps where our motor was, the Amir pulled up and stood for some minutes saying nothing. He sent for some soda-water and then a cigarette and still could say nothing, beyond a remark about cordite, which I think was merely an effort to pull himself together.

Eventually he got into the motor and wrung Lord Kitchener's hand, saying he was unable to speak.

He displayed great emotion in the motor and could not speak until we were nearly at the station. He spoke to me warmly about the friendships he had formed in Calcutta, and how he treated friendship as a very serious thing.

This morning he told me he had been too disturbed to sleep, and this evening, when talking it all over, he told me that he might have pulled himself together enough to say what he wanted to say to Lord Kitchener, but just at that moment your A.-D.-C. (Lord Bury) conveyed Your Excellency and Lady Minto's farewell messages, and that he said was too much for him, and he was too moved to speak.

I mention this as it may interest you. He is a simple warm-hearted creature in some respects, to an extent which surprises one.

Please excuse a hurried scrawl in the train.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) A. HENRY McMAHON.

No. 151.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 11th February 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. On 8th Amir attended service at Nakhoda Mosque in morning, and in evening was present at State Ball at Government House. On 9th he paid farewell visit to Lord and Lady Minto, attended races in afternoon,

dined with Commander-in-Chief, and left for Bombay soon after midnight. He was visibly affected on leaving, and said that his feelings were too much to admit of his speaking. Before this he had repeatedly thanked Viceroy, Commander-in-Chief, and Foreign Secretary for all that they individually and the Government of India had done for him. He had brought a little friendship; he carried away a heavy load of warm affection for the British.

No. 152.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Bombay, 12th February 1907.

1825-A. V. Amir arrived Bombay 3-30 p. m. today after most successful journey, during course of which he showed considerable interest in the scenery and rode on engine for some miles. He was met at Victoria Terminus by Governor, Naval Commander-in-Chief, and principal officials, and received ovation from dense crowd who lined streets. At 4-15 p. m. he paid formal call on Governor, and afterwards drove out in motor car. He attends State Banquet at Government House this evening.

No. 153.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, 12th February 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. Please refer to Viceroy's letter to Amir, dated 3rd November 1906, forwarded with Foreign Secretary's letter of 29th idem. On 8th February, the Amir sent for Sir L. Dane, and had a long conversation with him on the subject of the import of arms. He generally approved the arrangement which was explained to him in the letter cited above, but said that he had another object in view. Now that Government have shown their confidence in him, he is sure they will be anxious that the arms supplied to his troops should be of best quality, so that they may be of some real use for defence of Afghanistan and India. Accordingly he asks that all arms and ammunition which he may purchase in England should be examined and tested by the same experts as test arms made by or purchased for the British Government and in the same way. He presumed that it could be arranged to carry out at the manufactory the testing of the usual percentage, whatever that may be, and wished that the test should not only extend to the quality

of materials, but also to character of the shooting. He intends obtaining cordite ammunition, and wants only the best, so he hopes that the test will secure this and prevent the use of bullets to which any possible exception could be taken. The danger of deterioration of cordite ammunition has been pointed out to the Amir, also the fact that we cannot be responsible when once the arms and ammunition have been passed. He recognises this. He is very desirous of an early decision, as he has selected the pattern of weapon that he means to adopt, and wants to place a large order with a firm in Bombay. He expressed readiness to pay examination fee of anything up to two rupees per rifle. We strongly recommend the adoption of proposal, which we consider an admirable one, if it can be arranged. Amir would like to be informed of decision before leaving Bombay.

No. 154.

H. M. the Amir of Afghanistan to Viceroy.

Telegram, 13th February 1907.

I have arrived safely at Bombay today, Tuesday, 12th February 1907. Thank God I am quite well. The arrangements on the road were satisfactory in every way. I hope Your Excellency will inform me of your health. Siraj-ul-Millat-Waddin.

No. 155.

H. E. the Countess of Minto to H. M. the Amir of Afghanistan.

Telegram, 13th February 1907.

I have to thank Your Majesty, on behalf of myself and my family, for your kind telegram and inquiries. We are all well, and trust rest of your tour in India will be as pleasant and successful as your visits to Agra and Calcutta. We much appreciate your kind regrets at leaving us, and your good wishes.

No. 156.

Viceroy to H. M. the Amir of Afghanistan.

Telegram, 13th February 1907.

Your Majesty's telegram of today. I congratulate you on your successful journey to Bombay. I am well, and send Your Majesty my best wishes for the remainder of your tour.

No. 157.

R.

Secretary of State to Viceroy. (Foreign Dept.)

* Telegram, 13th February 1907, 4-20 p. m. (Recd. 14th, 6 a. m.)

Foreign. Secret. The Amir's G. C. B. Please refer to Sir L. Dane's demi-official letter of January 24th. Style of His Majesty should be substituted for His Highness in grant. In order to obviate necessity for a fresh grant, the alteration can be made in India as suggested if it is possible to do this.

No. 158.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 14th February 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Amir arrived Bombay afternoon February 12th. He was met at station by Governor, Naval Commander-in-Chief, and principal officials, and received ovation from dense crowd who lined streets. In afternoon he paid formal call on Governor.

No. 159.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Camp, 14th February 1907.

1837-A. V. At State Banquet night of 12th February Amir replying to Governor's toast said that the friendship between Afghanistan and India which had at first been a shrub had now become a tree the fruit of which we were eating and in the shade of which we were sitting. Until the Government of India deserted Afghanistan, Afghanistan would never desert the Government of India. On morning of 13th February Amir inspected big guns at Colaba with Governor and saw target practice, firing one of the guns himself. He remarked he required big guns something like these for strong positions in the mountains of Afghanistan and that he looked to his friends to help him in getting them after he should have proved his friendship. Amir breakfasted with Gunner's mess and spent remainder of morning shopping. In afternoon he attended Bombay races and in evening dined with Chief Justice. Amir has decided to abandon his shooting trip to Bahawalpur and to stay in Bombay till 20th February.

Addressed Foreign.

No. 160.

Secretary of State to Viceroy. (Foreign Dept.)

P * Telegram, 15th February 1907, 5-30 p. m. (Recd. 16th, 6 a. m.)

Foreign. Secret. Arms for Amir. Your telegram of February 12th. There is no objection to doing what is practicable with a view to meeting Amir's wishes, provided that long or short British service rifle adopted and order placed in England. The rifles would be inspected by War Office for Amir at Contractor's works on precisely the same lines as for British army, every part being gauged and the arms tested by firing. Cost of inspection would be 6 per cent. on value, *i. e.*, 4s. 7d. per short and 3s. 10d. per long rifle. Ammunition tested by samples at cost of 3 per cent on value. It would be possible to inspect other pattern rifles if made in England, but in that case all that can be guaranteed is conformity to specification approved by Amir. Delay in supply may also ensue if manufacturers are not fully equipped with plant. If orders placed abroad, inspection would be costly and unsatisfactory. The danger of stored cordite should be pointed out in writing to the Amir.

No. 161.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, 15th February 1907, 3-45 p. m.

Private. Your private telegram of 13th. No political discussion took place with the Amir, but as already intimated Amir sent for Dane on 9th, and mentioned certain matters to him, amongst which most important was question of communication between Afghan and Russian frontier officers. Amir said friendship between Afghan and British Governments was now so close that there was no room for third party to come between. He added about fourteen years ago an Afghan merchant was seized as a spy on the Pamirs and property worth Rs. 20,000 was taken from him. Abdur Rahman referred case to Indian Government and paid merchant Rs. 20,000 himself. Recently Russian authorities have sent letter to Commandant of Badakhshan and to the Amir's fur-purchasing agents in Bokhara saying Russians were now convinced that man was not a spy. They therefore had paid the Rs. 20,000 into the Bokhara Treasury which Amir could take when he desired. Amir has sent no answer as he had promised that he would have no relations with the Russian authorities, and that he would either send no answer at all or would refer the Russians to the British Government.

As it was undesirable to prolong Amir's stay in Calcutta and as Dane had received no special instructions from me he merely listened to Amir's remarks and reported them for information.

A full copy of his note went home by mail of this week.

No. 162.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Bombay, 15th February 1907.

1849-A. V. Yesterday Amir spent morning shopping. In afternoon he visited the flag-ship of Naval Commander-in-Chief, *Hermes*, and subsequently H. M.'s ship *Diadem*, being received with full naval honours. Amir saw torpedoes fired and small submarine mines exploded, and himself fired several shots at target from 6-inch gun on *Diadem*. War-ship and Royal Indian Marine ship *Dufferin* were illuminated after sunset. In evening Amir dined quietly with Chief Justice and afterwards attended Harmston's Circus.

Addressed to Foreign.

No. 163.

Foreign Secretary to Officer in charge, Amir's tour, Bombay.

* Telegram, 15th February 1907.

My telegram February 14th.. If Hayden is to go to Afghanistan, General Mullaly would like to see him before he goes.

No. 164.

Foreign Secretary to Sir A. H. McMahon, Amir's Camp.

P * Telegram, 15th February 1907.

Demi-official. My demi-official letter of 30th January. We should be glad of your opinion as to best candidate for Kabul appointment at your earliest convenience. There is much to arrange before he can start, and he should go up with Amir.

No. 165.

No. 81.] Viceroy to Secretary of State. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

P * Telegram, 16th February 1907.

Foreign. Secret. On night of 12th February at State Banquet Amir, in replying to toast by Governor of Bombay, spoke in warm terms of strengthened friendship between Afghanistan and India, using same metaphors as used by Sir L. Dane in speech at Kabul in March 1905. He said that, until Government of India deserted Afghanistan, Afghanistan would never desert the Government of India. On the morning of February 13th he inspected big guns at Colaba with the Governor. Amir remarked that he required guns like these to place in strong positions in mountains of Afghanistan, and he looked to his friend to help him in getting them after he should have proved his friendship. He dined in the evening with Chief Justice. Amir has decided to stay in Bombay till 20th February, and to abandon shooting trip to Bahawalpur.

No. 166.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Bombay, 16th February 1907.

1908-A. V. On 15th February Amir spent morning shopping. In afternoon he attended Friday prayers at mosque, and had tea at Yacht Club. In evening dined with Mr. Fulton, senior Member of Council. On 16th February Amir visited Arab stables in morning and bought several horses. In afternoon he attended races and had tea at Government House. He dined with Sir Archibald Hunter. Amir visits Poona tomorrow morning, returns Bombay in evening.

Addressed Foreign.

No. 167.

Foreign Secretary to Sir A. H. McMahon.

Telegram, 16th February 1907.

Please inform Amir that His Majesty's Government are willing to do what is practicable to meet his wishes in the matter of testing arms and ammunition purchased for him in England. If he purchases long or short

rifles, British Service pattern, they would be tested by War Office on precisely same lines as for British Army, every part being gauged and arms tested by firing. Cost of inspection is put at 6 per cent. on value, which comes to more than Rs. 2 per rifle, but an attempt will be made to reduce cost to this amount, if possible.

If other pattern rifle adopted, all that could be guaranteed is conformity to specification approved by Amir.

Ammunition would be tested by samples at cost of 3 per cent. on value.

No. 168.

R.

FROM THE HON'BLE LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR H. A. DEANE, K. C. S. I., Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province.

Peshawar, February 16th, 1907.

MY DEAR DUNLOP SMITH,

It may interest His Excellency to hear that the Afghan Postmaster here says that the Amir wrote the other day to his "Harem" (he writes every day) that he realises that he has been sleeping in Kabul with a blanket over his head—that he is now awake and his eyes are opened—and that he now sees how the intentions and ideas of the Government of India towards himself and Afghanistan have been persistently misrepresented to him by the people about him in Kabul—that he is entirely convinced of the honest friendship of the Government of India.

I hear the Amir has become a Mason. 'Tis a pity, and it will do him no good in his own country, where a Mason's Lodge is known as the *Jádu-ghar*!

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) H. A. DEANE.

No. 169.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

* Telegram, 18th February 1907.

1934-A. V. Amir paid short visit to Poona, 17th February, leaving Bombay 9 A. M. and returning 8 P. M. He drove in motor car through Kirkee to Ganeshkind and spent some time inspecting houses and grounds. Thence he drove to Boat Club, where he lunched, and afterwards went on river in motor boat. Amir was much struck with scenery of the Ghâts. He was accompanied

on journey by Haydn of Geological Department, and, after long conversation with him, informed him that he wished him to accompany him to Afghanistan. On return to Bombay he dined quietly with Chief Justice.

Addressed Foreign.

No. 170.

Foreign Secretary to Private Secretary to Viceroy, Camp.

* Telegram, 18th February 1907.

Amir is engaging Hayden as Geologist to go to Afghanistan, and wishes him to be at Peshawar on 28th February. I propose, if Viceroy has no objection, to report this to Secretary of State.

No. 171.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Camp, 18th February 1907.

Viceroy approves your reporting to Secretary of State Hayden's engagement by Amir.

No. 172.

Offg. Chief Secy. to Govt. of the Punjab to Foreign Secy.

* Telegram, Lahore, 19th February 1907.

Reference programme of Amir's reception at Lahore. No mention is made of Lieutenant-Governor meeting Amir at station or paying him a formal visit. His Honour notices that at Bombay Governor met Amir at railway station, and would be glad to know whether he should do so at Lahore; also whether any formal visit should be paid.

No. 173.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 19th February 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Nothing of importance to report in connection with Amir's visit during last five days, except that on 14th February he visited battleships *Diadem* and *Hermes*, and on 17th instant went to Poona, returning same day.

(73)

No. 174.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Bombay, 19th February 1907.

1983-A. V. Amir on 18th February spent whole morning buying Waler horses. In afternoon he visited photographer and attended races. In evening he dined with Naval Commander-in-Chief.

Repeated to Private Secretary to Viceroy, Calcutta.

No. 175.

Naval C.-in-C., East India Station, Bombay, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

Telegram, Bombay, 19th February 1907.

Following telegram has been sent to Government of India, Marine Department :—

Begins. Amir has now decided to remain Bombay until Friday, but quite understands that much inconvenience to Naval Service is caused by this second change, and suggested to Sir Henry McMahon that the extra cruisers should not be detained longer. I propose, with His Excellency the Viceroy's concurrence, to send them away Wednesday as arranged with Admiralty. This will not affect remainder of programme. Request reply by telegraph. *Ends.*

No. 176.

Secy., Marine Dept., to Private Secy. to Viceroy, Camp.

Telegram, Calcutta, 19th February 1907.

268-M. Following telegram received from Admiral under today's date :—

Begins. Amir has now decided to remain Bombay until Friday, but quite understands that much inconvenience to Naval Service is caused by this second change, and suggested to Sir Henry McMahon that the extra cruisers should not be detained longer. I propose, with His Excellency the Viceroy's concurrence, to send them away Wednesday as arranged with Admiralty. This will not affect remainder of programme. Request reply by telegraph. *Ends.*

Please reply urgent and send copy of your reply direct to Admiral, Bombay, for information.

(74)

No. 177.

Naval C.-in-C., East India Station, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Bombay, 19th February 1907.

Receipt of your telegram about extra cruisers being sent away is hereby acknowledged.

No. 178.

Foreign Secretary to Officer in charge, Amir's tour.

* Telegram, 19th February 1907.

My telegram of 16th February. If Amir is satisfied with the testing of 25 per cent. of arms ordered for him instead of every rifle, cost of testing could probably be reduced well below Rs. 2 a rifle, calculated on whole consignment. Ordnance officers here consider that testing of such a proportion selected at random would be quite sufficient to secure satisfactory quality of whole order. We await his reply before taking further action.

No. 179.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Admiral, Bombay.

Telegram, Camp, 19th February 1907.

Your today's telegram. Amir's prolonged stay in Bombay. Viceroy quite approves extra cruisers being sent away Wednesday as arranged. I have informed Government of India, Marine Department.

No. 180.

Private Secy. to Viceroy to Secy. Marine Department, Calcutta.

Telegram, Camp, 19th February 1907.

Your telegram today. Viceroy approves Admiral's proposals. Have already telegraphed this approval to Admiral direct and to Military Supply.

No. 181.

Private Secy. to Viceroy to Secy., Military Supply Dept.

Telegram, Camp, 19th February 1907.

Viceroy approves Admiral's proposals about extra cruisers being sent away on Wednesday. I have informed Admiral direct.

No. 182.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, 20th February 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. For some months past the Amir has been moving in the matter of securing experts to examine the mineral wealth of Afghanistan and to work the coal-mine in Ghorband. He has asked that the services of Mr. H. H. Hayden, of the Geological Survey, may be placed at his disposal for first purpose, and wishes him to join at Peshawar on 28th February. He discussed matter fully with Hayden while on journey to Poona. No agreement has been definitely executed yet, but the Amir apparently wishes to keep him for a considerable time. Subject to your consent we propose to allow Mr. Hayden to go up and in due course will report terms arranged.

The Amir is engaging a non-official from Bengal coal-fields for the coal-mine.

No. 183.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 20th February 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Amir now leaves Bombay on 22nd February, and Karachi on 24th. Arrives Lahore 26th, Peshawar 28th. Leaves on 1st March, going straight through to Dakka. No information of interest.

No. 184.

Foreign Secretary to Private Secretary to Viceroy, Camp.

Telegram, Calcutta, 20th February 1907.

Following telegram sent to Secretary of State today :—

Begins. Amir now leaves Bombay on 22nd February and Karachi on 24th. Arrives Lahore 26th; Peshawar 28th. Leaves on 1st March, going straight through to Dakka. No information. *Ends.*

No. 185.

Foreign Secy. to Offg. Chief Secy., Punjab, Lahore.

* Telegram, 20th February 1907.

Your telegram 50 P., February 19th. Amir raises difficulties about calling on Lieutenant-Governors and Chief Commissioners, so in Calcutta it was arranged that the Lieutenant-Governor should not meet him, and the arrival was not in full State.

At Agra Lieutenant-Governor met him and the Amir dined with Mr. Hewett, but no visits were exchanged. If in McMahon's programme attendance of Lieutenant-Governor is not mentioned, it will be better to accept that, and Lieutenant-Governor will not call on Amir, but might ask him to dinner.

Addressed Punjab. Repeated officer in charge, Amir's tour.

No. 186.

Sir H. McMahon to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Bombay, 20th February 1907.

1999-A. V. Amir is very anxious to purchase house he now occupies in Bombay. I ignored request for some days, thinking that he might not again allude to it, but he has asked me again to enquire about it. The house has recently been bought by Bombay Government as residence for any Government official, but it is too large for one official, and idea is to divide it into residences for two officials. The difficulty of carrying this out may, I understand, make Bombay Government willing to dispose of it. What reply shall I give if question is raised again, as I feel certain it will be?

No. 187.

Sir H. McMahon to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Bombay, 20th February 1907.

1989-A. V. British Agent in Kabul. I have been unable to reply before and do so now with difficulty. Of our Attachés, following are only ones who can be considered in this connection :—I omit Maula Bakhsh, as you know all about him. Malik Umar Hayat Khan is far and away best man we have got, and his case can be treated separately on level with Nawab of Loharu. Next comes Iftikhar-ud-din, a very able man and personally known to Amir, who, however, treats him, like all other Indian gentlemen of our Attaché class, with indifference. Next come two Native Officers of class usually selected hitherto for Kabul, namely, Subadar-Major Sardar Khan and Risaldar Zahur-ullah Khan, both distinguished men as regards military service, both have travelled outside India and are steady, reliable men, but without much intellectual abilities. Sardar Khan has a smattering of English, Zahur-ullah has none. Kazi Aziz-ud-din, on candidates' list, is able man, but his appearances and servile manner render him unsuitable. Excepting Sardar Khan and Aziz-ud-din, I do not know if any of above are willing to go to Kabul.

No. 188.

Foreign Secretary to Private Secretary to Viceroy, Camp.

* Telegram, Calcutta, 21st February 1907.

Following from McMahon, No. 2001-A. V., February 20th :—

Begins. Amir has asked me to arrange to get for him following experts :
 1st. A Railway Engineer to lay railway line from Kabul to coal-mine at Ghorband, about 40 miles with branch lines to his new fort Jabl-ul-Siraj. 2nd. A Canal Engineer to lay level for canal. He has not yet told me where. 3rd. A good Veterinary Officer (Surgeon). 4th. A landscape gardner. 5th. Someone to superintend his stables, who can supervise breaking in of riding and carriage horses, and especially teach(ing), train(ing) and riding of race horses, as he is anxious to introduce our system of racing. Perhaps work of number 5 could be done by number 3 with aid of subordinates. 6th. An expert in canning fruit. He laid great stress on this. 7th. An expert in inoculating cattle for rinderpest and other cattle diseases.

Above are all to be Europeans. He leaves the question of pay open, and is willing to agree to what may be considered fair amount in each case. He is willing to offer especially high pay, if necessary, for number 6. Form of agreement would probably be similar to that proposed for Hayden, of Geological Department, who is now in Calcutta. It is very desirable that I should be able to give Amir some definite information on above points before he leaves India. *Ends.*

I will telegraph my views a little later.

No. 189.

Foreign Secretary to Private Secretary to Viceroy, Camp.

P * Telegram, Calcutta, 21st February 1907.

My telegram of today. Experts for Amir. In order to prevent difficulties, as on previous occasions, about salaries, I have asked McMahon to ascertain approximately what Amir is prepared to pay.

At first sight it might seem dangerous for Amir to import so many British officers at once, especially as his friendliness with us in India has probably been reported in bad light to Kabul. However, it is very improbable that all men could go up at once. There have been about as many British up in Kabul before in Abdur Rahman's time, and we ourselves contemplated asking him to let five officers go up to examine country north and west of Kabul. I think, therefore, that, if Amir offers reasonable salaries, we may

proceed with project, even if necessary, supplementing his salaries to secure good men. Most important from our point of view is survey for railway to Ghorband. There is a 2-foot tramway with about 4 miles of line at Kabul, and late Amir contemplated first making line in interior of Afghanistan not connected with foreign lines when country could afford this. There is, therefore, no reason to suppose that scheme would in itself excite serious trouble, and we might offer him a selection of two or three officers of different ranks to choose from. For canal, which is probably Jalalabad canal suggested by me, we can easily supply a good European or possibly Mohammedan Engineer. Veterinary Officer would meet objects 3—5 and 7. Grierson from Agra, with whom Amir discussed question, might go temporarily as landscape gardener. For expert in canning fruit we should probably have to go outside India, though Anderson, junior, of Kashmir might do if a cheap man is wanted, and considering class of fruit in Kabul an expensive man would really be wasted. If Viceroy generally approves, we might let Secretary of State know nature of Amir's request and how we propose to meet it.

No. 190.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

Telegram, Bombay, 21st February 1907.

2006-A. V. On 19th February Amir shopped in morning, lunched at Yacht Club with Chief Justice, played foursome of golf in afternoon, dined with Governor, and visited circus.

On 20th February Amir shopped in morning, visited military sports at Colaba and races in afternoon, and went to theatre in evening.

Addressed Foreign.

No. 191.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon.

* Telegram, 21st February 1907.

Your telegram about experts for Amir. Am referring question for Viceroy's orders, but it will much facilitate proceedings if you can ascertain approximately salary which Amir is prepared to pay for each. Please remember pension contribution in case of those who are in Government employ. Question already raised in case of Hayden, for whom, under ordinary rules, contribution would be about Rs. 375. To save complications contributions might be included in salaries.

No. 192.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, 21st February 1907.

2012-A. V. Amir has expressed his wish to stay in Bombay until the 25th, which will delay his departure from India to 4th March. I have explained to him that this constant change of dates looks bad, and while assuring him that hospitality of Government is not restricted to fixed dates, his prolonged stay here is strain on kindness of private hospitality shown him here. He says his reason for staying longer is to complete some unfinished business for his country in matter of purchase of arms, and he begs me to arrange for departure on 25th. I am doing so accordingly.

Addressed to Foreign.

No. 193.

Governor of Natal to Viceroy.

Telegram, 21st February 1907.

Please convey to Amir, Afghanistan, from Mussalmans in Natal their respectful greetings and prayers for his long life and brilliant reign.

No. 194.

Foreign Secretary to Private Secretary to Viceroy, Camp.

Telegram, Calcutta, 21st February 1907.

Amir will now not leave Lahore until 3rd March. Dobbs is to be married on 4th there, and enquires if he can remain behind when Amir leaves. I see no special objection. Amir is aware of the circumstances. With Viceroy's approval proposal may be sanctioned.

No. 195.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon.

* Telegram, Bombay, 21st February 1907.

Could you take opportunity of sounding Amir whether, with reference to my conversation with him on 9th instant, he would like us to send as British Agent a native gentleman of high position such as Umar Hyat Khan or Loharu, and, if so, whether he is prepared to give Agent special position at Durbar? Should be glad of very early reply as Agent ought to join Amir as soon as possible.

(80)

No. 196.

Foreign Secretary to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, 21st February 1907.

Following from McMahon, No. 1999-A. V., dated 20th February :—

Begins. Amir is very anxious to purchase house he now occupies in Bombay. I ignored request for some days, thinking that he might not again allude to it, but he has asked me again to enquire about it. The house has recently been bought by Bombay Government as residence for any Government official, but it is too large for one official, and idea is to divide it into residences for two officials. The difficulty of carrying this out may, I understand, make Bombay Government willing to dispose of it. What reply shall I give if question is raised again, as I feel certain it will be. *Ends.*

Prima facie proposal seems to be open to strong objection. With His Excellency's approval, I propose to ask McMahon to ascertain precisely what the Amir's object is with regard to proposed purchase.

No. 197.

To THE HON'BLE LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR H. A. DEANE, K.C.S.I., Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province.

Viceroy's Camp, February 21st, 1907.

MY DEAR DEANE,

The Viceroy was keenly interested in your letter of the 16th, which has followed me up to these Assam jungles.

The Amir has said in these letters practically what he has said to McMahon more than once. But has the Peshawar Postmaster authority to open His Majesty's letters to his "Harem"?

I think, with you, that his becoming a Mason was a mistake. His Sirdars were already sick enough about his undisguised delight with everything British, and now some of them are saying he has secretly turned Christian.

He will have a troubrous time for the next few months in Kabul.

You will see a great change in him.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) J. R. DUNLOP SMITH.

No. 198.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Camp, 22nd February 1907.

Your yesterday's telegram. Amir's wish to purchase house. Viceroy agrees proposal is open to very serious objection and approves your telegraphing as proposed to McMahon, provided Amir again raises question.

No. 199.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Foreign Secretary.

Telegram, Camp, 22nd February 1907.

Your two cypher telegrams of yesterday. Experts for Amir. Viceroy has repeated McMahon's telegram to Secretary of State for information only, and will discuss whole question with you next Tuesday.

No. 200.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Foreign Secretary.

Telegram, Camp, 22nd February 1907.

Your telegram of yesterday. Viceroy approves Dobbs remaining Lahore for marriage.

No. 201.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, 22nd February 1907, 9 p. m.

Private. Following telegram received from McMahon :—

Begins. Amir has asked me to arrange getting for him following experts :—Firstly, a railway engineer to lay railway line from Kabul to coal-mines at Ghorband, about forty miles, with branch lines to his new fort Jabl-ul-Siraj. Secondly, a canal engineer to lay level for canal. He has not yet told me where. Thirdly, a good veterinary officer. Fourthly, a landscape gardener. Fifthly, someone to superintend his stables, who can supervise

breaking of riding and carriage horses, and especially teach training and driving of race-horses, as he is anxious to introduce our system of racing. Perhaps work of No. 5 could be done by No. 3 with aid of subordinates. Sixthly, an expert in canning fruit: he laid great stress on this. Seventhly, an expert in inoculating cattle for rinderpest and other cattle diseases. Above are all to be Europeans. He leaves the question of pay open, and is willing to agree to what may be considered fair amount in each case. He is willing to offer especially high pay, if necessary, for No. 6. Form of Agreement would probably be similar to that proposed for Hayden of Geological Department, who is now in Calcutta. It is very desirable that I should be able to give Amir some definite information on above points before he leaves India. *Ends.*

This for information. I will telegraph my views on above shortly.

No. 202.

Foreign Secy. to Acting Chief Secy., Bombay.

* Telegram, 22nd February 1907.

We have definite information of sale of following weapons by Afghans to Khyber Afridis :—

First.—Long Lee-Enfield Magazine Rifle, sighted 2,800 yards, marked B. S. A. Coy. on ring on small of butt. On chamber 23903 on off side and T. above middle leaf of back sight 884930. Proof marks crown over B. P. 303.

Second.—Short Lee-Enfield Magazine Rifle, sighted 2,000 yards. Marks L. O. A. Coy. Ld. Short L. E. on band on small of butt. On top of chamber sale permit over crown and on belt patent 19:145 over 90.

Third.—Identical with second.

We cannot trace import at Calcutta. Kindly ascertain and telegraph if import can be traced at Bombay or Karachi, and who were the importers and purchasers.

No. 203.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, 22nd February 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. The Amir has further deferred his departure from Bombay till 25th instant. He has been advised by Sir H. McMahon that these constant changes of date do not look well. The Amir says he is settling

arrangements for purchase of arms. He will, as now arranged, arrive Karachi on 27th February, Lahore 1st March, and go on 4th proximo straight through to Dakka.

No. 204.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Bombay, 23rd February 1907.

2034-A. V. On 21st February Amir spent morning shopping. In afternoon he attended horse show and in evening dined with Chief Justice. On 22nd February His Majesty breakfasted with Chief Justice and thereafter attended prayers at Zakaria Mosque, where immense crowd had assembled. In afternoon he attended motor car show and in evening dined with British officers on special duty with him in Yacht Club.

Addressed Foreign.

No. 205.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Camp, 23rd February 1907.

Demi-official. Your demi-official telegram 21st February. No permission was sought by, or granted to, Envoy to purchase arms, but a considerable quantity of arms was purchased by Afghan Sardars and followers on order signed by McMahon under authority conveyed in your letter No. 104-F. of 12th January. Copy of all such orders which gave exact number and class of arms were furnished to Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, and it would perhaps save time to obtain them from him. Envoy was reported to me to have secretly made corner in cheap arms in Calcutta, and to have made large profit by refusing to allow their sale to Afghans except at high prices, but it is understood that this was only arranged with License Vendors, and arms did not actually pass into Envoy's possession or that of his servants.

No. 206.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon.

Telegram, 23rd February 1907.

Hayden enquires if it would suit Amir equally well that he should join him at Jalalabad at end of March. He has much work to settle up here, and if he is

only to examine ruby mines at Jagdallak while Amir is at Jalalabad he could do this in a short time. If you see no objection, you might sound Amir as to this. No reply yet received from Secretary of State, so whole arrangement must be tentative. In draft agreement, it will probably be best to omit all mention of period of employment, leaving this to be terminated by either party by notice as provided in revised draft agreement sent you by Hayden.

No. 207.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Malabar Hill, 25th February 1907.

2065-A. V. On 23rd February Amir visited motor-car shop in morning and ordered specification of cars specially adapted for hill climbing and sharp turns. Amir lunched at Byculla Club and attended races in state with Governor. In evening he dined with Naval Commander-in-Chief.

On 24th February Amir breakfasted with Chief Justice, and in afternoon visited caves of Elephanta by launch. He dined with Governor. Amir leaves Bombay this evening by sea for Karachi.

Addressed Foreign.

No. 208.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Bombay, Apollo Bunder, 25th February 1907.

Demi-official. I heard Amir say yesterday that he had not got reply to his last letter of some ten days ago to Lady Minto. Perhaps Her Excellency might write him few lines, if she has not already done so. Letter, I think, referred to present of fruits he sent by post with it.

No. 209.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon.

Telegram, 25th February 1907.

Your telegram 1999-A. V. of February 20th. Amir's wish to purchase house in Bombay. Proposal is open to very serious objection. Should Amir again raise question, please ascertain precisely and report what his object is with regard to proposed purchase.

No. 210.

Private Secretary to Viceroy to Sir H. McMahon.

* Telegram, Camp, 26th February 1907.

Her Excellency wrote to Amir some days ago from Camp, and is writing again today about presents.

No. 211.

Sir H. McMahon to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Karachi, 27th February 1907.

2075-A. V. Your S-81 of 14th February and S-101 of 24th. Amir asks for names of sellers and particulars with numbers, if possible, of arms referred to. He will make enquiries and punish offenders severely if traced. He thinks it unlikely that his men did such a thing.

No. 212.

Sir H. McMahon to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Karachi, 27th February 1907.

2076-A. V. Your telegram of 23rd. Amir asks that Hayden should join him Peshawar, as he wants him to be with him at Jalalabad. Regarding draft agreement I concur in desirability of omitting mention of period of employment. I would recommend that agreement adheres to what was suggested by Amir as regards period of notice of termination in three weeks and one month for Amir and Hayden respectively. Also I would not restrict leave clause to Civil Service Regulations, but insert period named by Amir. Necessity for raising the question of enhanced pay providing for pension contributions is unfortunate. Cannot it be obviated by waiving contributions in this particular case? It can be provided for in all future cases when determining rates of pay. Amir has great dislike for re-opening any questions which he once considered settled, and in this case I think we ought to do nothing that might put Amir off his bargain or discourage him from employing Government officials in future.

No. 213.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Karachi, 27th February 1907.

2082-A. V. Governor paid informal visit to Amir at 11 A. M., to say farewell, on February 25th. Amir spent rest of morning shopping. In course of morning he asked Treacher & Co. to arrange to get him expert in wine-making, low standard. He is thinking of making wine out of Afghanistan grape for export. He also negotiated with Treacher for purchase of arms. In afternoon Amir left Bombay by Apollo Bunder and went on board the Flag-ship *Hermes*, in which he went some six miles out to sea and saw gunnery practice, which seemed greatly to interest him. About 6-30 P. M. he returned in *Hermes* to harbour, and was transferred to *Dufferin*, which left at 8-30 P. M., escorted by H. M. S. *Highflyer*. Amir seemed pleased with arrangements in *Dufferin* and has not felt motion of ship. February 26th was spent at sea which was perfectly calm. Amir went all over *Dufferin* in morning and spent most of afternoon on bridge.

Addressed to Foreign.

No. 214.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Amir's Camp, 28th February 1907.

2095-A. V. On 27th February Amir arrived Karachi at 1 P. M. and was received by Commissioner in Sind, General Smith-Dorrien, and Judicial Commissioner, who lunched with His Majesty on *Dufferin*. Amir shortly afterwards entered launch and proceeded to Manora, where he saw submarine mine fired beneath old boat which was blown to pieces. He then drove in motor car to Zoological Gardens, where he spent some time and purchased young lions, and after some shopping departed from Cantonment Station 8 P. M. On 28th February Amir arrived at Sukker at 7-45 A. M. and inspected bridge over Indus in trolley. Amir has signed contract with Fennell, European Chauffeur, of one of motor cars with him, to go to Kabul for six months.

Addressed to Foreign.

No. 215.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon.

* Telegram, 28th February 1907.

Your telegram 2076-A. V., February 27th. Hayden starts tonight for Peshawar, but we still await orders from Secretary of State, and Hayden should not cross frontier till these are received. Original arrangement about

leave and notice of termination of agreement may be adhered to, and rate of salary need not be altered to cover pension contributions. Please help Hayden to conclude formal agreement before he leaves India.

No. 216.

Sir H. McMahon to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Camp, 28th February 1907.

2094-A. V. Exports. Amir most anxious to get the Railway Engineer as soon as possible, and has repeatedly reminded me about it. I would strongly recommend John. There are very great possibilities in this connection if a really good man is sent in first instance. It would be impossible to find a man more thoroughly suited in every respect, both ability and temperament, than John. I trust you will be able to give me favourable reply about railway expert very early, as it will have good effect. Do try and get John.

No. 217.

Sir H. McMahon to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, 28th February 1907.

2093-A. V. Amir has at last given me a reply about British Agent, and in writing. He wants Iftikhar-ud-Din appointed. He says that he will be treated in the same way as Khuda Bakhsh, and should behave in the same manner as Khuda Bakhsh. I am sending you his written request. Talking confidentially to me the other day, he said that time had not yet quite come to give our Agent better position. He will do so later, but at present immediately after his visit to India his people will be more than usually suspicious of his actions.

No. 218.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon.

* Telegram, 28th February 1907.

Your telegram 2075-A. V., February 27th. Following is description of rifles known to have been sold by Afghans:—

First.—Long Lee-Enfield Magazine Rifle, sighted 2,800 yards, marked B. S. A. Company on ring on small of butt. On chamber 23903, on off side and T above middle leaf of back sight, 884930. Proofs marks, crown over B. P. '303.

Second.—Short Lee-Enfield Magazine Rifle, sighted 2,000 yards. Marks, L. S. A. Company, Limited. Short L.-E. on band on small of butt. On top of chamber, sale permit over crown, and on bolt, patent 19·145 over 90.

Third—is identical with second.

We have failed to trace these as having been imported at Calcutta, and are enquiring at Bombay. Names of importers and purchasers up to the present equally unknown to us. Please discuss matter with Deane at Peshawar. In view of Amir's disbelief that his men have sold arms, it is very desirable to submit to him convincing proof.

Repeated Sir H. Deane.

No. 219.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Camp, 1st March 1907.

2105-A. V. Amir wishes prolong stay at Lahore till evening 3rd March. On March 3rd he will make short expedition to Amritsar to see Golden Temple, leaving Lahore about 8-30 a. m. with about six of his staff and returning Lahore in afternoon. He will leave Lahore same evening about 10 o'clock, arrive Rawalpindi morning of 4th. Inspect Fort and will leave Rawalpindi about noon, arriving Peshawar about 5 p. m. on March 4th.

Addressed Foreign; repeated Punjab; Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, Lahore; Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar; Deputy Commissioner, Jhelum; Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi; North-West Frontier; Political Agent, Khyber; and Deputy Commissioner, Peshawar; and General Officers Commanding, Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Peshawar.

No. 220.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon, Amir's Camp.

* Telegram, 1st March 1907.

My telegram 28th February. Secretary of State's consent to Hayden proceeding Afghanistan received. Please inform Amir and Hayden, and furnish copy of agreement as eventually signed.

(89)

No. 221.

H. M. the Amir of Afghanistan to Viceroy.

Telegram, Lahore, 1st March 1907.

I have safely arrived at Lahore, after visiting Bombay, travelling by sea, seeing Karachi, and inspecting the Sukkur Bridge. At all places the arrangements for my comfort, &c., were first class. I thank Your Excellency.

No. 222.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, 1st March 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. The Amir arrived at Karachi on the 27th February after pleasant voyage in *Dufferin*, escorted by *Highflyer*. Before leaving Bombay he asked Messrs. Treacher & Company to arrange for expert in wine-making, as he is contemplating making wine out of Afghan grapes for export. The Amir also negotiated with the same firm for purchase of arms.

No. 223.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Camp 2nd March 1907.

2112-A. V. On March 1st Amir arrived at Lahore 10 A. M. Arrival was private. Amir drove to camp on Light Horse parade ground. In afternoon he attended Friday service at Shahi Mosque, and thence visited Shahdara, and Chiefs' College and Assault-at-Arms, Mian Mir. In evening he dined with Lieutenant-Governor.

Addressed to Foreign.

No. 224.

Viceroy to H. M. the Amir of Afghanistan, Camp.

Telegram, 2nd March 1907.

So glad Your Majesty has had interesting visit to Bombay and pleasant sea voyage, and that arrangements for your comfort have been successful. My best wishes for Your Majesty's continued good health and happiness.

No. 225.

Private Secy. to Viceroy to Officer in charge, Amir's tour.

Telegram, 2nd March 1907.

Viceroy wishes to catch Amir at Landi Kotal with telegram of farewell. Please telegraph the exact date and hour His Majesty will reach Landi Kotal.

No. 226.

Foreign Secretary to Major Sir H. McMahon.

* Telegram, 2nd March 1907.

Your telegram 2093-A. V., February 28th. Viceroy accepts nomination of Iftikhar-ud-din as British Agent. It is presumed that you have ascertained that he is able and willing to go. In view of great importance of our having a representative with Amir on his return to Afghanistan to watch course of events, he should if possible accompany Amir next week. Escort could follow, if Amir agrees, in a few weeks. I understand British Agent's tents and some Agency transport are at Peshawar. He would require a Munshi, and Deputy Commissioner, Peshawar, could tell him the establishment employed by Malik Khuda Bakhsh which must not be exceeded. Instructions and papers could be sent later.

No. 227.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon.

* Telegram, 2nd March 1907.

Your telegram 2094-A. V., February 28th. Following telegrams repeated for your information and guidance. From Secretary of State, dated 28th February :—

Begins. Amir's scheme as to minerals and coal mine. Your telegram of February 20th. You may promise assistance to the Amir in engaging for him suitable servants, but I think that it is undesirable to make any addition to Hayden from official ranks, and in any case it will be well to supply them gradually, looking to contingencies of Amir's death, accidents and disturbances, and the risk of arousing Russian suspicions. *Ends.*

From Viceroy, dated 2nd March 1907 :—

Begins. Your instructions have been noted. Sir H. McMahon telegraphs that the Amir has repeatedly reminded him about the Railway Engineer and

is most anxious to get him as soon as possible. He suggests Mr. John, the officer who did such good work on Seistan Mission. We are seriously apprehensive of exciting the Amir's worst suspicions if we do not meet his wish in this matter of the railway for his coal mines, which he is clearly determined to construct. It is also a matter of the utmost importance for us to ensure that the expert sent to advise on railway matters between the Hindu Kush and Kabul should be strictly British. If, in consequence of our refusal to give him an expert, the Amir engaged, as he could do tomorrow, a foreigner, results might be disastrous. In fact, Dreshler, a German expert now in India and of thorough German sympathies, is most anxious to go, and we could not prevent the Amir engaging him. As regards other experts asked for, we will gradually provide non-officials or Indians if Amir will accept these, but for the Railway Engineer we beg with all possible respect that we may be permitted to send Mr. John, in whose skill, judgment, and tact we have complete confidence. Russian susceptibilities ought not to be unduly excited, as he is a Civil Engineer. The Amir already has Donovan, electrical expert, and Halliday, general engineer, in Afghanistan, as well as Thornton, the tanner. He has himself engaged in India a non-official coal mining engineer, a chauffeur and a wine expert, so one more civilian should not make much difference either in matter of exciting comment or in the event of disturbances. There were 17 Europeans in Kabul from December 1904 to March 1905, moving freely about the place at a period when fanatical attack was much more likely. In the reign of the late Amir, the number of Europeans was also considerable. In any case the advantage to be derived by deputation of expert Railway Engineer is so important that we confidently recommend that risk should be taken.

Ends.

No. 228.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon.

* Telegram, 2nd March 1907.

Entente with Russia is now assuming more definite form, and British views about Afghanistan have been communicated to Russian Minister by Nicolson. *Inter alia* it is proposed to allow communications between Russian and Afghan frontier officers on matters of local importance and non-political character. Amir's consent is to be sought. Viceroy's opinion is that this would undoubtedly raise Amir's suspicions, and that he would not consent. What are your views? Please telegraph urgently, as Viceroy proposes to telegraph to Secretary of State.

No. 229.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

Telegram, Lahore, 2nd March 1907.

2125-A. V. My telegram 2105-A. V. of 1st March. As at present arranged, Amir leaves Lahore 22 hours, 4th instant; arrives Rawalpindi 7 morning, 5th; leaves again about noon; arrives Peshawar 17 hours, 5th instant. He will probably leave Peshawar morning, 7th March, going straight to Dakka.

Addressed Foreign, Calcutta. Repeated Punjab, Commissioner, Lahore; and Deputy Commissioners, Lahore, Jhelum, and Rawalpindi and Peshawar; Secretary, North-West Frontier; and Political Officer, Khyber, Peshawar; General Officers Commanding, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Peshawar; and T. S. N. T. R.

No. 230.

R.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, 2nd March 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. Your telegram of 28th February. Amir's request for certain experts. Your instructions have been noted. Sir H. McMahon telegraphs that the Amir has repeatedly reminded him about the Railway Engineer and is most anxious to get him as soon as possible. He suggests Mr. John, the officer who did such good work on Seistan Mission. We are seriously apprehensive of exciting the Amir's worst suspicions if we do not meet his wish in this matter of the railway for his coal mines, which he is clearly determined to construct. It is also a matter of the utmost importance for us to ensure that the expert sent to advise on railway matters between the Hindu Kush and Kabul should be strictly British. If, in consequence of our refusal to give him an expert, the Amir engaged, as he could do tomorrow, a foreigner, results might be disastrous. In fact, Dreshler, a German expert now in India and of thorough German sympathies, is most anxious to go, and we could not prevent the Amir engaging him. As regards other experts asked for, we will gradually provide non-officials or Indians if Amir will accept these, but for the Railway Engineer we beg with all possible respect that we may be permitted to send Mr. John, in whose skill, judgment, and tact we have complete confidence, Russian susceptibilities ought not to be unduly excited, as he is a Civil Engineer. The Amir already has Donovan, electrical expert, and Halliday, general engineer, in Afghanistan, as well as Thornton, the tanner. He has himself engaged in India a non-official coal mining engineer, a chauffeur, and

a wine expert, so one more civilian should not make much difference either in matter of exciting comment or in the event of disturbances. There were 17 Europeans in Kabul from December 1904 to March 1905, moving freely about the place at a period when fanatical attack was much more likely. In the reign of the late Amir, the number of Europeans was also considerable. In any case the advantage to be derived by deputation of expert Railway Engineer is so important that we confidently recommend that risk should be taken.

No. 231.

Sir H. McMahon to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Amritsar, 3rd March 1907.

Your telegram of the 2nd March. I do not think that the Amir is likely to consent. He has once or twice expressed to me his disbelief in Russian assurances, and pointed out how unreliable they have been in case of other countries. The more he suspects any Russian understanding with us depends on consent on his part in this matter, the less he is likely to give such consent. In any case I would earnestly deprecate his being addressed on this point during his stay in India.

No. 232.

FROM THE HON'BLE LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR A. H. McMAHON, K. C. I. E., C. S. I.,
Chief Officer on Special Duty with the Amir of Afghanistan.

Lahore, March 3rd, 1907.

MY DEAR DUNLOP SMITH,

I send you two diaries. Am getting terribly in arrears, but what can I do ? The Amir is going stronger than ever and never gives me a minute to myself the whole day long.

We are staying here to see Dobbs' wedding ! Not the church part of the business I hope, but only the reception afterwards. The Rivazes are singularly oblivious of the honour done them !

I am sending you by separate cover, registered, your daughter's book with a long entry by His Majesty, of which I have given a translation written in the train in a great hurry with the Amir standing over me, watching each word written. Enough to spoil any one's grammar.

He insisted on inserting her age, and as I did not know it I made a wild shot. A thousand apologies if I've gone wrong.

Yours in haste,

(Sd.) A. H. McMAHON.

No. 233.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 3rd March 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Amir stays Lahore till evening 3rd March, making short visit to Amritsar that day. Leaves Lahore same night for Rawalpindi, arriving there morning 4th, inspects forts and proceeds Peshawar in afternoon.

No. 234.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 3rd March 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Amir left Karachi on 27th February and left same evening for Sukkur, where, on 28th, he inspected bridge over Indus. He has signed contract with European chauffeur to go to Kabul for six months.

No. 235.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, 4th March 1907.

2148-A. V. On 2nd March Amir spent morning shopping and lunched with Accountant-General. In afternoon witnessed tennis tournament; dined with General Kitchener in evening. On 3rd March Amir paid flying visit to Amritsar, where he visited Golden Temple and lunched in Rambagh Garden. After return to Lahore in evening laid foundation stone of Anjuman Islamia College. In reply to address Amir spoke on much same lines as at Aligarh, expressed gratitude to British Government for allowing Mussalmans of India to approach him freely, and exhorted them to grasp benefits of European education. In evening Amir dined as guest of Gloucestershire Regiment at Mian Mir.

Addressed to Foreign.

No. 236.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Lahore, 4th March 1907.

2149 A. V. Your telegram of 2nd. Will supply required information as soon as possible.

No. 237.

Sir H. McMahon to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, 4th March 1907.

2152-A. V. Your telegram S-109. Iftikhar-ud-din has, as you know, never been very anxious to go to Kabul. I included his name among the other recommendations as I considered him a very able and suitable man. He expressed willingness to take up the appointment and will accompany Amir to Afghanistan. He asks for advance of one month's pay; hopes he will not be loser pecuniarily by relinquishing present post, and asks that the circumstances of his appointment and departure at such short notice will be taken into consideration hereafter if he may have reason to ask for leave or wish to be relieved before ordinary period of appointment expires.

No. 238.

To HIS MAJESTY THE AMIR OF AFGHANISTAN.

Barrackpore, March 4th, 1907.

SIR,

Before Your Majesty leaves India I must send you my best wishes for a continuance of the blessings of health, and for a prosperous return journey to Kabul.

I am sending a telegram to Your Majesty, which I hope may be delivered to you at Landi Kotal, telling Your Majesty how greatly I have appreciated the honour of being able to welcome you to India on behalf of the King-Emperor, and how much I hope that a true personal friendship between ourselves may contribute to a good understanding between the people of our respective countries.

I trust that Your Majesty has enjoyed your visit, and that our efforts to secure your comfort during your long journeys have been successful, and that you have been able to see much that was interesting, notwithstanding the short time at your disposal.

I must ask Your Majesty to understand that this is not an official letter, and I hope, if occasion arises, you also will not hesitate to write to me as a friend.

We shall always look back with pleasure on Your Majesty's visit to Calcutta and the day you spent with us at Barrackpore, and Lady Minto and my daughters ask me to convey to you all their best wishes for the future.

I beg to remain,
Your Majesty's sincere friend,

(Sd.) MINTO.

No. 239.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon.

* Telegram, 5th March 1907.

Your telegram 2152-A. V., March 4th. Orders being issued for payment of advance of one month's pay to Iftikhar-ud-Din from Peshawar Treasury. He should take with him from Peshawar tents, transport, toshakhana articles, &c., left with Deputy Commissioner by late Agent. A packet containing books, maps, &c., for him is being posted tonight to Deputy Commissioner, who should be requested to forward with great care if received after Iftikhar-ud-Din's departure with Amir.

I trust you have arranged with Amir about escort following.

Repeated Deputy Commissioner, Peshawar.

No. 240.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 5th March 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. As at present arranged, Amir arrives Rawalpindi morning 5th and Peshawar evening of same date. He will probably leave Peshawar 7th instant, going straight to Dakka.

No. 241.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon.

* Telegram, 6th March 1907.

Secretary of State has agreed to deputation of John to Afghanistan in Amir's employ. Further communication will be made regarding salary and terms of employment. Meanwhile please inform Amir, explaining John's special qualifications, so that no difficulties may arise hereafter. John is coming to Calcutta at once. It is very desirable to avoid all publicity regarding John's appointment.

No. 242.

Sir H. McMahon to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Peshawar, 6th March 1907.

Clear the line. If I could give Amir any assurance about Railway Engineer before he leaves Landi Kotal tomorrow, I think it would be an excellent thing. Can you tell me what pay he should give John, if appointed ?

No. 243.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon.

* Telegram, 6th March 1907.

It is reported from Kabul that Sardar Nasrullah in public Durbar stated that four sons of leading Sardars with Amir have become Christians here, and some of their relatives have accordingly executed agreements to come down and kill them. Have you heard anything of this ?

No. 244.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon.

* Telegram, 6th March 1907.

The pleasure of His Majesty the King-Emperor cannot be anticipated, but officers may receive Afghan Orders which Amir desires to confer, and question of their accepting and wearing them will be referred.

Private. You are aware of orders passed by His Majesty in previous cases.

No. 245.

Sir Henry McMahon, Peshawar, to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, 6th March 1907.

2176-A. V. Amir tells me that he wishes to present some of the officers of British Staff with Afghan Order, and asks whether they may be permitted to accept them. He desires a reply, if possible, by noon today, 6th instant.

(98)

No. 246.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Peshawar, 6th March 1907.

Clear the line. 2180-A. V. I have every reason to believe that Amir starts tomorrow and proceeds direct to Dakka.

Addressed to Foreign.

No. 247.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, 6th March 1907.

2182-A. V. Amir leaves Peshawar 7th and should arrive Jamrud 9 A. M., and Landi Kotal noon.

No. 248.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, 6th March 1907.

2186-A. V. On 4th Amir motored round Shalimar Garden. In afternoon attended reception at Lieutenant-Governor's on occasion of marriage of Miss Rivaz to Mr. Dobbs. In evening Amir dined with Accountant-General, and afterwards left Lahore by train at midnight. On 5th Amir visited defence works and arsenal at Rawalpindi in morning. He arrived Peshawar in evening and dined with General Barrow. On 6th Amir motored to Shah-i-Bagh and despatched all Afghan heavy baggage and most of his party to Landi Kotal. In the evening he dines with Sir Harold Deane.

Addressed to Foreign.

No. 249.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, 6th March 1907, 9 p. m.

Private. Negotiations with Russia affecting Afghanistan. Please see your official telegram of 26th February. I venture very respectfully to submit that, if we approach Amir as to direct communication between Russian and

Afghan officials, there would be great risk of jeopardizing the excellent relations now existing between us. The recent conversation with Sir H. McMahon, reported in the journals, which will be sent to you, fully illustrates his apprehension of Russian designs, and I am convinced he would refuse proposal, whilst the suggestion would at once arouse his suspicions as to the intentions of the joint understanding between ourselves and Russia.

With reference to your private letter of 15th February, I quite agree that no further official recognition of Amir's visit or Royal farewell was advisable.

I am sending him farewell from myself personally.

No. 250.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, Peshawar, 7th March 1907.

2198-A. V. Following telegram despatched from Amir to King-Emperor :—

Begins. Frontier of India, 7th March 1907. Today I have crossed the Indian frontier and entered Afghan territory. During my 64 days' tour in India I have been shown nothing but kindness, friendship and honour. I heartily thank Your Majesty on behalf of myself and the whole Afghan nation. Siraj-ul-Millat-Wad-Din. *Ends.*

Addressed to Foreign.

No. 251.

Viceroy to H. M. the Amir of Afghanistan.

Telegram, 7th March 1907.

I beg to send Your Majesty on your departure from India my best wishes for a pleasant journey home, for your continued good health and happiness, and for the prosperity of Afghanistan. It has been a great honour to me as the representative of the King-Emperor to receive Your Majesty in India, and I hope that our personal friendship may contribute to a good understanding between our respective countries. Your Majesty may rest assured that you are carrying with you to Kabul the best wishes of many sincere friends in India, who will retain very happy memories of Your Majesty's visit.

(100)

No. 252.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Peshawar, 7th March 1907.

Clear the line. 2197-A. V. Amir left Peshawar this morning and crossed the frontiers at 5-30 p. m.

Addressed Foreign.

No. 253.

Foreign Secretary to Sir H. McMahon, Amir's Camp.

* Telegram, 7th March 1907.

Your telegram of 6th. Salary suggested for John is Rs. 3,200, inclusive of pension contributions and travelling allowance of three hundred. If Amir finds all transport and camp equipage, three hundred may be deducted from sum mentioned. His actual pay is Rs. 1,750. If Amir is likely to demur, you should find out what he is willing to pay. He will of course require establishment in addition.

No. 254.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 7th March 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. On 3rd March Amir paid flying visit to Amritsar, returning in evening to Lahore, where he laid foundation stone of Anjuman Islamia College. In reply to address Amir spoke on much same lines as at Aligarh, expressing gratitude to British Government for allowing Musulmans of India to approach him freely, and exhorting them to grasp benefit of European education.

No. 255.

Sir H. McMahon to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

Telegram, Peshawar, 8th March 1907.

2199-A. V. Following telegram despatched to Reuter today :—

Begins. Following autograph message has been given by His Majesty the Amir for despatch to you :—*Begins.* In the name of God. Dated Jamrud, the 7th March 1907. At the time of returning from my journey in India and

entering Afghan territory. My tour in India, which has lasted 64 days, has given me so much pleasure that I cannot find words to express it. Every kindness and friendship has been shown to me by the Government of India, His Excellency the Viceroy, the Commander-in-Chief, and other military officers and civil authorities in India, and I have found them all friends of the Government of Afghanistan and of myself. I am able to declare that, during this short tour of mine in India, I have made more true friends for the Government of Afghanistan and for myself personally than I could have made in 20 years had I not come from Afghanistan to India. I therefore today congratulate the Afghan nation and myself on possessing such good friends. My friend, Sir Henry McMahon, will communicate this written message of mine to Reuter's Agency for publication in newspapers for the information of the whole world. Siraj-ul-Millat-wad-din. *Ends.* This might be repeated to Indian Press, if not already done by Reuters. *Ends.*

Addressed Foreign.

No. 256.

H. M. the Amir of Afghanistan to Viceroy.

Telegram, Peshawar, 8th March 1907.

Frontier of India, 7th March 1907. Your Excellency's telegram reached me today at Landi Kotal before my departure towards Afghan territory. I thank Your Excellency. At this moment I have crossed the Indian frontier and entered Afghan territory. I have spent 64 days in India with very great pleasure. I heartily thank Your Excellency for all the honour, &c., shown to me by the Government of India. I particularly thank Your Excellency for appointing an able officer like Sir Henry McMahon as my *Mehmandar*. I am very pleased with all the arrangements made by him and his assistants. I bid you good-bye. Siraj-ul-Millat-Wad-Din.

No. 257.

Sir H. McMahon to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Peshawar, 8th March 1907.

Your telegram of 6th instant regarding Sardar's sons. I have heard nothing and attach no importance to this rumour.

No. 258.

Sir H. McMahon to Foreign Secretary.

* Telegram, Peshwar, 8th March 1907.

Amir agrees to pay proposed for John. Will give further information when I arrive at Calcutta.

No. 259.

Officer in charge, Amir's tour, to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

* Telegram, 8th March 1907.

2211-A. V. On afternoon of 6th Amir attended Highland sports and in evening dined with Sir Harold Deane. Deane proposing Amir's health said, that two months ago it was his privilege to be first Government official to entertain Amir, and now it was his privilege to be the last to entertain him ; assured Amir he was leaving behind in India happiest recollections of courtesy and cordiality ; trusted Amir would on his side carry away pleasant recollections of places and people. Amir replying said, before coming to India he had always thought and spoken of Government of India as his friend and of himself as their friend. He rejoiced at the knowledge that, on return to his country, he could think and speak of them as his real friends in fact as well as in theory. On morning of 7th Amir left Peshawar 8-30 a. m. Departure was public, roads lined by troops, and all principal Civil and Military officers present at station. In train *en route* to Jamrud Amir presented following decorations :—McMahon, Sardar, 1st class; Dobbs, Order of Stor; Brooke and Bird, Order of Hurmat; Duke, Drummond, and Ramsay, Order of Izzat; Field, Jenkins, Pilkington and Waugh, Order of Khidmat. Presentation was preceded by gracious word of acknowledgment of services rendered during tour, expressing complete satisfaction. On arrival at Jamrud Amir said good-bye to Attaché and Assistants, thanked them briefly for services rendered, and prayed for their prosperity. At Landi Kotal Amir lunched with officers of the Khyber Rifles and started on horseback at 4 p. m., accompanied by all British officers. Afghan escorts met Amir at point about quarter mile of this side of spot where we met him on arrival. Amir waived them aside and passed them escorted by our Cavalry to river bed beyond Landi Khana, where we had met him on arrival. Here Amir dismounted and took leave of British officers, and then drew McMahon away to a retiring spot and bade him a very affecting farewell. Amir showed much emotion. All Sardars and Afghan Staff appeared sincerely sorry to bid us good-bye. Demeanour of whole Afghan party on departure offered extraordinary contrast to that on arrival two months ago. Amir before farewell handed McMahon telegrams for translation and despatch to His Majesty the King, Viceroy, Commander-in-Chief, and others. Addressed to Foreign.

(103)

No. 260.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, 8th March 1907, 3.40 p. m.

Private. Amir crossed frontier yesterday afternoon. I sent him following message :—

Begins. I beg to send Your Majesty on your departure from India my best wishes for a pleasant journey home, for your continued good health and happiness, and for the prosperity of Afghanistan. It has been a great honour to me as the representative of the King-Emperor to receive Your Majesty in India, and I hope that our personal friendship may contribute to a good understanding between our respective countries. Your Majesty may rest assured that you are carrying with you to Kabul the best wishes of many sincere friends in India, who will retain very happy memories of Your Majesty's visit. *Ends.*

No. 261.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 9th March 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Amir left Peshawar morning 7th instant and crossed frontier the same evening. He sent telegraphic message of thanks to King for the kindness, friendship and honour shown to him throughout visit.

No. 262.

To THE HON'BLE LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR A. H. McMAHON, K. C. I. E., C. S. I.,
c/o the Foreign Department.

Govt. House, Calcutta, March 11th, 1907.

MY DEAR McMAHON,

Many thanks for your two diaries received with your letter of 3rd March from Lahore.

My daughter also sends you her grateful thanks for getting His Majesty's signature. She was delighted to find the Amir had taken so much trouble and puts it all down to you.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) J. R. DUNLOP SMITH.

No. 263.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

* Telegram, 11th March 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. In replying to Deane's toast at dinner on evening 6th March Amir said that before coming to India he had always thought and spoken of the Government of India as his friends and of himself as their friend; he now rejoiced at the knowledge that, on his return to Afghanistan, he could think and speak of the Government of India as real friends in fact as well as in theory. On 7th while in the train *en route* to Jamrud he presented British officers with medals, acknowledging in gracious terms the services rendered by them during the tour and expressing his complete satisfaction. He left Landi Kotal at 4 p. m. An Afghan escort met Amir at a quarter of a mile on this side of the spot where he had been met on arrival. The Amir waved them aside and passed them escorted by British Cavalry to the river bed beyond Landi Khana, where Sir H. McMahon met him on arrival. The Amir dismounted here and took leave of British officers. He showed much emotion. The demeanour of whole Afghan party on departure offered an extraordinary contrast to that on arrival two months ago. Before saying farewell the Amir handed McMahon telegrams for despatch to His Majesty the King, the Viceroy, Commander-in-Chief, Reuter, and others.

No. 264.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, 15th March 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. Please refer to your telegram of 28th February. With reference to negotiations with Russia, we note that the views of Russian Government are to be ascertained before the question of direct communications between Russians and Afghans on local and non-political frontier matters is mentioned to Amir. We much doubt if he will agree to authorise formally such communications, and our objects in suggesting such an arrangement may be misunderstood by him. At the same time he may tacitly allow such informal communications as now pass, especially in the Herat direction, and we also need not object to these as long as they do not assume more serious proportions or character. These considerations will no doubt occur to Sir A. Nicolson in dealing with this question.

To us the fifth clause of the draft instructions appear open to misconception, as British and British Indian traders now enjoy no especial facilities for trade in Afghanistan, save what may be granted by the Amir to particular traders.

It would be most undesirable that any pretext should be given to Russia for urging that the Amir should be required to summon Russian traders or experts to Kabul, as he now occasionally does, in the case of British or British Indian subjects. Unless therefore it is too late, we would suggest modification or omission of this clause, even if it necessitated dropping clause 4, which otherwise is very desirable.

No. 265.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

P * Telegram, 17th March 1907. (Despd. from Foreign Dept.)

Foreign. Secret. Your telegram of the 15th February. The Amir has placed contract with Messrs. Treacher & Company, Bombay, for ten thousand short Lee-Enfield rifles of the British Government pattern, with bayonets, and ten million cordite cartridges: the former are to be supplied by the Birmingham or London Small Arms Companies, and the latter by Kynoch, Limited. The contract stipulates for tests by British Government officer at the maker's works. The Amir asks that, with a view to reducing the cost of test of rifles, only 25 per cent. selected at random be tested. This is considered sufficient by our Ordnance experts. The Amir also asks that cartridges be tested as regards the quality of cordite as well as to make sure the bullets are not of prohibited pattern. Can you arrange with manufacturers that rifles for Amir should bear distinctive mark? This is very desirable, seeing that they are of same pattern as those of our Army.

No. 266.

FROM LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR A. H. McMAHON, K. C. I. E., C. S. I.

Fort William, Calcutta, March 17th, 1907.

DEAR LORD MINTO,

I received the following letter from the Amir last night which may interest Your Excellency as it shows that he was all right and well at Jalalabad on the 11th:—

"Jalalabad, 11th March.

MY DEAR FRIEND SIR HENRY McMAHON,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge your letter and the photographs of Miss Deane and Mrs. Dick Cunningham respecting which I had asked them to send me. I was highly pleased to hear you were enjoying good health.

I will not forget the sad time of departure when I had to bid you good-bye. I always look upon you as my friend and will look on you as such for ever.

Your friend,

(Sd.) SIRAJ-UL-MILLAT WAD-DIN.

P. S.—I trust that this letter will reach you in Calcutta. Please convey my best *salams* to my friends Lady Minto and my first pupils Lady Eileen and Lady Ruby.

Please also give my best *salams* to all my other friends at Calcutta.

Your friend,

(Sd.) SIRAJ-UL-MALLAT WAD-DIN."

I remain, yours sincerely,

(Sd.) A. H. McMAHON.

No. 267.

To LIEUT-COLONEL SIR A. H. McMAHON, K. C. I. E., C. S. I.

Govt. House, Barrackpore, March 18th, 1907.

DEAR McMAHON,

Very many thanks for copy of the Amir's letter. I hope all will go all right with him. Have you seen the last Kabul journals? Nasrulla is said to have proclaimed in Durbar that three of the Amir's Sirdars had turned Christian, &c., &c. Is there the slightest foundation for it? If Nasrulla really said what is attributed to him, it looks as if he meant mischief.

I confess I shall be somewhat anxious for the next few weeks.

I hope you will let me know anything you hear.

I shall be back in Calcutta Wednesday morning.

Yours very truly,

(Sd.) MINTO.

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No. 268.

FROM LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR A. H. McMAHON, K. C. I. E., C. S. I. E.

Fort William, Calcutta, March 19th, 1907.

DEAR LORD MINTO,

I write to acknowledge Your Excellency's letter of yesterday.

I do not attach any importance to the reports from Kabul. What Nasrulla is reported to have said, is probably only a garbled version of some statement with reference to one of the Amir's servants who bolted from him at Delhi, and gave out that he intended to become a Christian. He died a month later of pneumonia, and the Afghans said this was an instance of divine justice and punishment!

Nasrulla doubtless said something about this, and it has got misrepresented.

The Amir received daily reports from Afghanistan and used to tell me, up to the last days of his visit, that they were perfectly satisfactory.

There will be many wild rumours for some time to come, but we need not attach much importance to them.

I remain, yours sincerely,

(Sd.) A. H. McMAHON.

No. 269.

FROM E. H. S. CLARKE, Esq., C. I. E., Deputy Secy. to the Govt of India, Foreign Dept

Calcutta, March 19th, 1907.

MY DEAR DUNLOP SMITH,

Yours of yesterday about the extraordinary story in the Kabul Agency Diary regarding alleged conversions to Christianity among the Sardars who accompanied the Amir to India. I started a file on the subject as soon as I saw the Diary, for it seemed impossible that the story could be fabrication pure and simple: and, indeed, the Agency Hospital Assistant, who writes the Diaries from Kabul just at present, is not at all the man to try and befool us. I am convinced that he believed he was reporting a truthful story.

Our file is not available at present, having been sent to the Criminal Intelligence Department, but it only shows that we referred at once to McMahon by telegraph, and that he replied he had never heard a word on the subject, and discredited the whole story. I have written to Fakir Saiyid Iftikhar-ud-din and asked him to ascertain what the Hospital Assistant's authority was for his detailed story, and it is possible we may hear something from the Criminal intelligence Department.

I spoke to Ramsay about the paragraph some days ago, and he told me that, while he had no clear recollection on the subject, he thought he had heard of one of the younger men having quitted the party at Delhi, and changed his faith, but he thought he had embraced Hinduisan, and not Christianity.

My own belief is that some time during the tour, there was some little bother about one of the young Khans, and an exaggerated story has reached Kabul, where Nasrulla Khan has made the most of it, in order to discredit the visit to India, to which, as you know, Nasrulla Khan was strongly opposed. We shall probably hear no more of this story from Kabul, since if Nasrulla Khan meant mischief and fabricated the tale as a means of raising ill-feeling against the Amir, which I was at first disposed to believe to be the case—he could drop it now and work the Freemasonry story much more effectively. The Envoy told me last week that the big people at Kabul, and especially Nasrulla Khan, were furious about it.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) E. H. S. CLARKE.

No. 270.

R.

Secretary of State to Viceroy. (Foreign Dept.)

Telegram, 16th April 1907, 1-50 p. m. (Recd. 17th, 7 a. m.)

Please telegraph total cost Amir's tour. Question in Parliament tomorrow.

No. 271.

Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Telegram, 17th April 1907.

Foreign. Your telegram of 16th April. Expenditure directly connected with Amir's tour £124,500. Military Concentration at Agra £36,700. Viceregal visit and Chapter at Agra £44,700.

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No. 272.

Foreign Secretary to Private Secy. to Viceroy.

Telegram, 18th April 1907.

Your telegram of today. No, the items Military concentration and Viceroy's visit and Chapter are not included in figure 1,24,500. Figures sent to Secretary of State closely correspond with estimates originally telegraphed to him.

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